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Israel

Israel will not accept "any economic conditions imposed by the U.S. Administration" in order to receive loan guarantees, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported. According to the paper this message will be relayed by Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel on his current trip to the United States. "We will be happy if our policy is compatible with the position of the Americans," Treasury officials stated, adding that "no country, even one that gives us guarantees, can force us to implement any economic measures that contravene our positions." Meanwhile, three "terrorists" were killed and two IDF soldiers were injured in an "exchange of fire" 4 August after an IDF patrol along the Jordanian border identified "what seemed to be a possible infiltration by several people into our territory," Tel Aviv radio reported. In other news, the Interior Ministry ordered the closure of AL-SIYASAH, a small Arabic-language weekly published in the western Galilee, Jerusalem radio reported. The reason for the closure was not made public, according to the radio.

Jordan

A statement issued by the House of Representatives said the U.S.-sponsored plan for a Middle East settlement would effectively "liquidate the Palestinian cause" by establishing autonomy for inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The eight-point statement, published in AL-RA'Y on 31 July, denounced Israel's policy of deporting Palestinians, stressed support for the Palestinian right of return, and reaffirmed opposition to settlements, "irrespective of whether they are called security or political settlements."

Iraq

An unidentified assailant fired on a UN guard in Baghdad on 2 August "but missed him," AFP disclosed. In response, an official Iraqi spokesman said authorities "have taken security precautions" to protect UN personnel, adding that "the site of the alleged incident has been placed under protection," according to INA.

India

An official spokesman clarified reports that India is willing to sign the proposed chemical weapons convention by reiterating that India has certain reservations about the treaty, Delhi ISI reported. The spokesman stressed that present negotiations are dealing with those concerns, adding that he hoped the result would be a "satisfactory treaty which will enjoy universal adherence."

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC, Islamic Jihad Reject Peace Plan

JN0308193792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Following a meeting of delegations from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the following joint statement has been issued:

And hold fast, all together by the rope which Allah stretches out for you, and be not divided. [Koranic verse]

A Joint statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and the PFLP-GC:

At an expanded central meeting between the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and the PFLP-GC, the two sides discussed international circumstances and the situation affecting the Palestine question. They also discussed U.S.-Zionist attempts to impose solutions aimed at obliterating the rights of our people and nation. The two sides noted their joint militant view and faith that the universe is governed by divine laws providing for competition and cooperation among nations, and that a judgment has been passed by the Koran to the effect that the Palestine question is a divine issue in which victory is assured. Based on this, the two sides affirm the following:

1. The first link in resisting the U.S.-Zionist scheme is the steadfastness of our mujahid Palestinian people, who, throughout the past decades of jihad and struggle, have affirmed that they are capable of holding fast and being a continuation of the nation's history and civilization.

2. The intifadah and its masses constitute the vanguard in resisting schemes aimed at liquidation. The two sides affirm continued support for blessed popular intifadah to bolster its role and protect it from the plots targeting it.

3. The importance of serious work to achieve unity among Islamic, nationalist, and pan-Arab forces in rejecting proposed settlement plans. They call for Palestinian unity and aborting enemy attempts to sow discord among our people. They denounce and reject internecine fighting.

4. The nation's only option to achieve victory is to continue jihad and struggle and to reject all solutions that the enemies seek to impose on our nation. The Islamic and Arab masses are called upon now, more than ever before, to mobilize their forces and to actively participate in confronting the destructive schemes targeting its present and future.

5. The Zionist enemy's policy has been and continues to be the same. Therefore, any change in Israeli Governments and faces will introduce nothing new at the level of the conflict's substance and continuation.

6. Any solution or formula that compromise our people's rights to all of Palestine are rejected and deemed null and void.

7. The two sides have decided to continue efforts to upgrade means of joint jihad and militant action in a manner serving the objectives of our people and nation.

Victory is for the mujahid masses of our people and nation.

Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of Allah and your enemies, and others besides, whom you may not know, but whom Allah does know. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and the PFLP-GC

Rabin Appointment of Arabs 'Long Overdue'

NC0308122892 Cairo MENA in English 1112 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, Aug 3 (MENA)—An authoritative Palestinian source described the decision of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin to appoint two Arab personalities as deputy ministers in the Israeli Government as a step long overdue, and showing the extent of injustice suffered by the Arab citizen in Israel.

The source told MENA that this decision highlights the importance of the Arab vote in Israeli elections.

Any Israeli leadership should take into consideration respect of the Arabs' rights in Israel and respect of Palestinians' rights in any step it adopts, the source added.

Security Council Urged To Stop Deportation Policy

TA3107160492 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Deportation—A Dull Weapon"]

[Text] The proceedings of the news conference held yesterday in Jerusalem by relatives and lawyers of the 11 residents threatened with deportation underscored the need for an active international effort to put an end to Israeli deportation policies that represent a shameful violation of international charters and norms, which do not sanction such policies because they grossly violate one of the most sacred human rights, namely, the right to remain on one's land.

In their message to international institutions and forums, the relatives of the prospective deportees called for urgent movement in these circumstances, especially by the UN Security Council, to curb the Israeli authorities' appetite for uprooting people on groundless pretexts with the aim of emptying the land of its original owners.

It is noteworthy that this policy is being practiced at a time when new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to portray himself to the world as a dove of peace and messenger of love. He is addressing the world in a language that reflects moderation while actually pursuing the deeds, acts, and practices of his predecessor, Shamir.

The deportation policy practiced by the Israeli authorities over the past years has proved that this policy is a dull weapon that has failed to blunt the will of the masses and prevent them from defying illegal measures being practiced against them, just as it has failed to stop the intifadah. Those who implement this policy have boasted of their ability to quell the intifadah through the uprooting policy.

While affirming our solidarity with our sons, who are threatened with being uprooted from their homeland while that homeland is near to realizing the aims of freedom and independence, we call on the UN Security Council to show the same zeal against Israel that it is showing against Iraq to force it to implement international legitimacy and force Israel to implement Resolution 726, which calls for halting the deportation policy and ensuring the return of the deportees to their homeland. Otherwise, the council will be reaffirming its practice of a double standard policy on similar issues, which is unbecoming to it.

'Ashrawi Views Israeli Elections, Peace Process

LD3007185192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent in occupied Jerusalem has interviewed Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast peace talks. He asked her about the progress of Arab-Israeli negotiations in light of the change in the Israeli Government, and the international efforts exerted to advance the peace process in the region.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Saudi television is pleased to meet Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi at her house. There are two new factors that appeared after the last round of bilateral talks. The first is the Israeli elections and the second is the American enthusiasm, represented by Secretary of State Baker's tour. To what extent do you consider these two factors positive in serving the peace process?

['Ashrawi] The issue is not that simple. Yes, the two things you mention are factors for change, but they cannot be considered positive in an absolute or final way. The positive nature is represented first by the fact that the Israeli elections have ended at last. This means freeing the negotiations and political process from the considerations of the Israeli internal elections. Therefore, we could enter the negotiations in a concentrated and speedy way. This actually is what Rabin announced and what the Israeli Government in general announced. This has also freed the other parties, particularly the sponsors and the European countries, from the considerations of nonintervention in the Israeli elections. This means that they are now, more than at any period before the elections, ready to take action or to adopt firm or more practical stands. At that time they were expressing fears of influencing the elections or appearing as if they were interfering in the Israeli elections.

As for electing the Labor government, specifically Rabin, this indicates that Likud and its partners have lost their credibility in Israeli society and that Israeli society is ready to deal with an alternative. This means there is a readiness to deal with the requirements of the peace process in the region.

[Reporter] Does this have a connection with the meeting that took place in Damascus? Has the Damascus coordination meeting achieved its aims for the concerned Arab sides?

['Ashrawi] The Damascus meeting emphasized the coordinated Arab stand, particularly the points of reference for the peace process. The meeting emphasized UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338 and the principle of land in exchange for peace, which means withdrawal from all the occupied territories in exchange for peace. It also emphasized the comprehensive nature of the solution, which is a basic matter, so that no side, including Israel, can establish a solution with one other side without all the others. The meeting emphasized the coordinated and united views of the Arab sides, whether participating or not participating in the bilateral talks but participating in the multilateral talks. [end recording]

Official Invitation to Peace Talks Received

JN0208075292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Palestinians have officially received the invitation to participate in the next round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks on peace in the Middle East due to be held on 24 August.

He said that the Palestinians are waiting for the forthcoming negotiations to identify the aims of Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the Israeli Government.

Al-Husayni asserted that if the settlement activities were frozen in a clear manner without distinguishing between a political and a security settlement and if steps were taken to build confidence, then the Palestinians will work on removing the obstacles which obstruct the resumption of Palestinian representation from inside and outside the occupied territories.

He noted that the Palestinians will negotiate the transitional stage where there should be a link between the land and the human being and the final stage that leads to an independent Palestinian state. He added that the Palestinians believe that holding legislative elections is a better step to establish transitional authority.

Egypt

Curfew Imposed on Dayrut; Fundamentalists Sought

NC0408100592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Egyptian security authorities imposed a curfew on Dayrut city, upper Egypt, and are chasing gunmen and Muslim fundamentalists whom they accuse of ambushing policemen and firing on Christians in upper Egypt.

Security sources said a 300-man police unit joined a 1,000-strong force on patrol and guard duties in Dayrut city and Asyut Governorate. [no time frame specified]

Since March, the area has been the scene of fierce clashes between police and Muslim extremists who want to set up an Islamic state in Egypt. More than 40 people have been killed in the clashes.

Musa Meets With Palestinian Ambassador 3 Aug

NC0308124892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

The Palestinian ambassador said afterward that he conveyed to Musa a message from PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, dealing with the peace process and moves due to take place this month to start a new round of negotiations in Washington.

He said Musa informed him that Egypt still seeks an Egyptian-Palestinian-Arab coordination and an evaluation of the latest Damascus meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with peace.

Kamal said the important thing about the forthcoming talks is that their goal should be to establish genuine peace. The Palestinians, he noted, are not interested in any party's internal affairs, but they are concerned about initiating the peace process on the clear bases contained in U.S. President George Bush's letter of invitation and guarantees.

He said: Time is important for us, but it should not be at the expense of the known principles that President Bush himself declared, foremost among which is the principle of land for peace.

Kamal said he believed there is a new Israeli tendency, especially on abolishing a resolution banning meetings with PLO representatives or leaders.

The Palestinian ambassador praised President Mubarak's policy, saying it was a wise policy that has for a year advocated the importance of gradual steps and obtaining the Palestinian rights in phases.

He said the Madrid Conference formula is acceptable, but that the Palestinians are seriously working to change it to assert the unity of rank, people, and goal.

He added that the 12 September Arab League Council meeting will give the Arab countries an opportunity to hold consultations and coordinate their positions.

Al-Baz—U.S. 'Will Not Remain' Sole Superpower

NC0308185292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that the new world order has not yet taken shape and is still in the stage of formation and growth. He noted that the United States will not remain the only superpower for long following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In a lecture to the leading intellectual figures from the university teaching staff, Dr. al-Baz said that by the year 2010, five world superpowers will have emerged; namely, a united Europe; North America, including the United States and Canada; Japan and the Asian states allied with it; the Russian Federation; and China.

He said that in addition to the five superpowers, five regional powers will have emerged: India, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico. He noted that if Egypt is to be a regional power, it needs to modernize education, industry, and agriculture and acquire and use modern technology. He added that Egypt is capable of doing this, especially after having introduced serious economic reform. He noted that Egypt will also have to eliminate the problem of extremism and terrorism for its society.

Dr. al-Baz said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait damaged the quest for Arab unity, dividing Arab ranks and leading some Arab states to believe that danger can come from fellow Arab states before it comes from abroad. He noted that the Egyptian-Israeli peace has not lead to a cultural invasion of Egypt. He noted that Egypt, with its culture, people, and civilization, is a radiant spotlight that shines on surrounding societies in the cultural, political, and social fields.

The Foreign Ministry official emphasized Egypt's rejection of any attempts to fragment or divide Iraq into small states, adding that Egypt seeks to maintain Iraq's territorial and national integrity despite its political differences with the ruling regime in Baghdad. He stressed the need to achieve Arab unity, particularly in light of the international blocs currently surfacing in the world. He noted that several Arab agreements exist that could help achieve this unity, including the Joint Arab Defense Pact, the economic cooperation agreements, etc.

Al-Baz Cited on 'Profound Relations' With Sudan

NC0408081392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 4 Aug 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM sheds light on confirmation by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, of profound relations between Egypt and Sudan. Egypt's borders are known, defined, and proven by official documents. Al-Baz said efforts will be peaceful, because Sudan is strategically important for Egypt. He added: We hope there will be a step forward between Egypt and Sudan as a starting point for Arab groups and blocs.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister To Visit; Musa on Issues

NC0308201192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will visit Cairo on Sunday. The talks will focus on Arab developments, the situation in the Gulf, and topics related to the Damascus Declaration prior to the upcoming 9 September meeting in Qatar.

Musa reiterated anew that East Jerusalem is subject to negotiations and that none of the parties can determine the course of the negotiations. The course of the talks can only be determined when the positions of the parties involved are known. Musa said that East Jerusalem is a [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1345 GMT on 3 August carries a report on Musa's comments and adds the word "Arab" here] territory occupied in 1967 and thus falls within the context and meaning of the text of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Musa discussed the coming round of bilateral negotiations, saying that it will provide an opportunity for some parties to prove how serious they are about the negotiations, primarily because former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir mentioned that he intended to delay the negotiations for 10 years. Israel must prove that Shamir's intentions left the prime minister's office with him, he added. This is an important point that will have a great impact on the future of stability in the region, he added.

Musa noted that no date has been set yet for Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo or any other visit.

Musa said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are tense for a reason, adding: The time to talk about it will come. He said that Hala'ib is Egyptian territory.

Musa concluded his statement by saying that the new chairman of the Nonaligned Movement must begin to contribute toward resolving problems among the movement's members and give momentum to its activity. This is particularly true because the movement will not be able to play its role unless many of the policies it has adopted are reconsidered, he added. He stressed the need for the Nonaligned Movement to play its role in serving the interests of the member states in the various fields.

[In a similar report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1420 GMT adds: "Referring to the upcoming Nonaligned Movement summit in Indonesia, Musa said that Egypt still believes that the Movement should merge with the Group of 77 so that Third World countries can contribute effectively to shaping international relations."]

Saddam Ouster Said Part of Bush Campaign

NC0408080492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—In its Tuesday issue, Cairo's AL-AHRAM expresses the view that the United States might carry out a military operation against Iraq as part of the election campaign to boost the popularity of President Bush, who is building his campaign on his ability to conduct American foreign policy to further his country's interests. One way or another, he wants to get rid of Saddam at a time when a majority of Americans are calling for just this.

The paper writes that, in his speech to the American people, Bush concentrated on his experience in international affairs, stressing that his strong rival Clinton lacks that experience and therefore lacks the ability to defend American interests abroad, on which U.S. domestic and economic policies are based.

AL-AHRAM adds that such military action against Iraq could take place at the height of the campaign and at the best time to boost Bush's popularity—less than that of his Democratic rival Clinton, who would seek to challenge Bush and accuse him of failing to get rid of Saddam.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets PLO's 'Arafat 3 Aug

LD0308201792 Tripoli JANA in English 1811 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received today the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Bishari on Ties With Egypt, Lockerbie Issue

NC0308144492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Aug (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation (foreign minister), expressed Libya's deep appreciation for President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tripoli following a meeting today with Mustafa al-Shadhili, head of the Egyptian follow-up bureau in Libya [similar to the post of ambassador], al-Bishari said that the Egyptian position on the Lockerbie crisis was natural, considering the close ties Egypt and its sister Libya enjoy. These ties include ties of kin, geography, history, and a common past and future, he added. I told Ambassador al-Shadhili that Egyptian-Libyan relations must be maintained, al-Bishari said, and we will not allow anyone to damage them.

Al-Bishari said he and the ambassador discussed a number of issues, most importantly the convening of the Egyptian-Libyan Joint Higher Committee at the end of this month. In addition, they discussed the need to implement and develop the 10 bilateral agreements reached in December 1990, particularly with respect to determining the respective currencies' exchange rates and how to enable Egyptians and Libyans to open bank accounts in either country. He added that experts will work out the details of these subjects, primarily the governors of the Egyptian and Libyan central banks, in accordance with the instructions of the leaders of the two countries.

The Libyan foreign minister [title as received] noted that the discussion also covered the current Arab situation and recent developments in the crisis between Libya and the

West. He particularly praised Egypt's role and attempts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, thus sparing the region many problems.

Al-Bishari was asked about recent developments in the crisis, particularly because the Security Council meeting in mid-August on the issue is approaching. We are in constant contact with the UN secretary general, whom we have asked to dispatch a commission from the UN secretariat to report to the entire world whether any terrorist training camps exist in Libya, al-Bishari added.

Al-Bishari added that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali proposed as a first step that a personal envoy of his be sent to prepare for the aforementioned committee's visit. We have gone a long way towards implementing Security Council Resolution 731, he said, adding: Two meetings were held between Libya and Britain in Geneva and Cairo. The Libyan official noted the British Foreign Office's statement describing the two meetings as a positive development. Al-Bishari mentioned the June decision by the General People's Congress in Surt to establish a committee to hold contacts with Security Council member states to solve the problem, noting that this is what is happening.

The Libyan official was asked about the articles recently published in the Libyan press on Arab affairs. He said these articles do not represent an official policy or reflect an official position, adding that they only express the views of their writers and are not binding on the state. He added: Similarly, we do not treat what is written in the Egyptian press as representative of the official Egyptian position; we treat it as representative of the individual who wrote it.

Afghan Minister Gives Thanks for Libyan Support

LD0308172792 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— Shaykh Malawi Arsala, the minister of awqaf (endowment) and Islamic Affairs in Afghanistan, expressed the appreciation and thanks of his country for the support and assistance which the Great Jamahiriyah proferred to the Afghani people, which he said played an essential role in liberating Afghanistan.

In an exclusive statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, the Afghani minister praised the efforts exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah in international arenas which he said played a considerable role in removing foreign troops from Afghanistan.

In his statement, Shaykh Arsala also gave due recognition to the outstanding role of the leader of the revolution in lending support to Islam and the Muslims throughout the world.

He said, furthermore, that the Afghan people harbored the greatest feelings of friendship and appreciation for Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and envision him as a Muslim leader fully attentive to Islamic affairs and Muslims. He said they also see him as someone who works towards uniting the Muslim voice and in gathering all Muslims to confront the crusader onslaughts directed against them.

In his statement he also said that his country was currently facing great difficulties and that there were one million Afghan refugees. He said that this required a firm stance to be adopted by friendly countries to provide the necessary assistance to overcome this emergency crisis.

He ended by saying that he would always be certain that the Great Jamahiriyah, which he had known to be continuously working towards the victory of Muslims for many long years, had never fallen short of extending assistance and aid to his country and people.

Tunisia

Sudanese Embassy in Tunis To Be Closed

NC0308103092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Aug 92 p 11

[Text] Paris—In a telephone conversation yesterday, a Tunis-based Sudanese diplomat confirmed reports that the Sudanese Embassy in the Tunisian capital will be closed soon, but denied it was because of Sudan's links with the Islamists of the Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement.

The diplomat, who requested anonymity, said that "rumors of Sudanese diplomats in Tunis being mistreated are untrue. It is simply that Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir asked us to close the embassy." The diplomat explained that "Ambassador 'Awad Muhammad al-Hasan returned to Khartoum before the presidential decision was made and that the embassy's closure is part of the reorganization of diplomatic work abroad."

The diplomat added that "there will be no going back on this decision. The delay in closing both countries' embassies is due to the contacts we are making about the necessary arrangements." He said: "We received official Tunisian notification that the Tunisian Embassy in Khartoum will be closed. News agency reports that we have been mistreated are untrue."

Asked whether the diplomatic crisis escalated after the trial of al-Nahdah Movement Islamists in Tunis, the diplomat said: "As far as we are concerned, this is untrue. We reiterated our diplomatic character and our neutrality about internal Tunisian affairs, but we do not deny there is tension between both countries."

A Tunisian source told AL-SAFIR that the tension is due to security reports received by the Tunisian authorities, stressing that Khartoum is illegally supporting and helping the Islamists, despite promising to stop such practices.

A Tunisian newspaper published a photograph of a Sudanese diplomatic passport given to the banned al-Nahdah Movement's Rached Ghannouchi in the name of Rashid Muhammmad Sa'id, born in the Sudanese al-Nur area.

In an interview with the French magazine LE MONDE, Tunisian President Ben Ali did not hesitate to level direct accusations at Sudan, affirming that Khartoum supports Tunisian fundamentalists.

President Receives Greek Deputy Foreign Minister

NC0403042192 Athens ERA Tessera Radio Network in Greek 1800 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou met today with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and handed him a message from Konstandinos Mitsotakis, Greece's prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, both officials agreed on a systematic and [words indistinct] dialogue between both countries and discussed bilateral and international issues.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dhimitrios Avramopoulos mentioned today that the Tunisian president expressed his respect regarding the role Greece is playing in regional problems and extended an invitation to Mitsotakis to visit Tunisia. He also said he is ready to visit Athens within the framework of upgrading bilateral contacts.

Tsoudherou also met with the head of the PLO's Political Department and discussed the course of the Middle East peace negotiations and Greece's role in the problem. Tsoudherou also visited the most reverend Metropolitan of Carthage Irinaios and representatives of the Greek community in Tunisia.

Islamic Leader Denies Aim To Overthrow Ben Ali

NC0308083792 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 28 Jul 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] The trial of 108 members of "an Islamic terrorist ring" accused of "undermining the state's internal security" began before a military court in Tunis yesterday. From the outset the presiding judge dictated the course of the questioning, asking the defendants "to confine their answers to the charges made against them and not to use the dock to deliver political or ideological speeches."

Thus, the judge interrupted Mohamed Habib al-Aswad, leader of the ring called the "Vanguards of Redemption" [tala'i al-fida'] more than once. Al-Aswad insisted on giving details about the goals and methods of his group and its relationship with the banned al-Nahdah movement, whose leaders are being tried before another military court.

The defense lawyers objected to the judge's desire to "confirm the confessions made by the accused rather than questioning the defendants."

The authorities say that they uncovered the ring and arrested its members in December 1990. Al-Aswad denied that his ring has any "organic or ideological links" with the al-Nahdah movement. He said: "I formed the ring by myself and worked separately from the movement."

The bill of indictment reads that the ring is an extension of a group of Islamists who were involved in a plot to overthrow former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba in 1987. The group members were arrested after President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took power in November 1987. They were then gradually pardoned.

Al-Aswad, who is 40 years old, formed his "secret and closed" ring from group members who had escaped arrest. A tape seized by the authorities and played before the court shows that the ring aimed to overthrow the present regime and establish an Islamic state in Tunisia through armed rebellion. Al-Aswad said that the tape contains only theoretical and propaganda material aimed at mobilizing the public and not at overthrowing President Ben Ali. He also said that he suspended his ring's activity months before he was arrested in November 1990.

Some 30 Army, police, and customs men involved in the case are expected to stand trial before the same court. Some 20 other defendants are still at large. Most of the defendants face the death penalty.

Kuwait

Libyan Envoy Arrives With Message for Amir

LD0308213892 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The envoy of the leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Libyan permanent representative to the Arab League, 'Ali al-Turayki arrived in the country at 0530 [1430 GMT] this evening carrying a message to His Highness the amir from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He was received upon arrival by the adviser at His Highness the amir's office, (?Shaykh Jabir al-Bar Muhammad) and the Libyan ambassador to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Participation in Kuwait Maneuvers Denied

LD0308215192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2127 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Aug—A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation issued a statement today saying: Some Arab media have reported that Saudi Armed Forces are participating in the exercises now taking place in sisterly Kuwait. The source said that the report is untrue.

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Official

LD0108202892 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, conferred today at the conference hall in Jeddah with Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League. The latter handed his highness a message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Libyan official had arrived in Jeddah earlier today. He was received at the international airport by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nuwaysir, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and a representative of royal protocol.

Pakistani Trade Delegation Arrives in Jeddah

LD0108204292 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 1, SPA—A three-member trade and industry delegation from Pakistan arrived in Jeddah yesterday on a week-long visit.

President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Abdulaziz Yaqub, president of Quetta Chamber of Commerce, Kamaluddin Ahmed and Suleman Ghani, industries secretary in the government of North-West Frontier Province, are the members of this high-powered team.

According to a press statement published today they will explore the possibility of setting up an investment promotion center in the prime commercial areas of Jeddah so as to provide assistance to the trade and business community.

They will confer with officials of Jeddah's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and call on big businessmen to discuss possibilities of setting up joint-ventures.

They are likely to visit some industrial estates in the Kingdom and witness the progress achieved in recent decades.

Release of Iraqi POW's, Status of Refugees Noted

LD0408042592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 3 Jul 92

[Text] Riyadh, 3 August—The director of joint forces affairs, Staff Lieutenant General Abd al-Aziz Bin Muhammad Al al-Shaykh, has stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries which returned Iraqi POWs to their country out of its wish to reunite brother Iraqis with their families.

At a news conference held at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation in Riyadh today, Staff Lt. Gen. Al al-Shaykh said: The status of POWs has ended since 22 Safar 1412 AH [2 September 1991] with the handing over of all those who wished to return to Iraq. Only refugees who are subject to the Fourth Geneva Convention as civilians are left, in addition to those who came with their families at the end of the events of the Gulf war as a result of their uprising against the ruling regime in Iraq.

Regarding the condition of the Iraqi refugees at Rafha and al-Arwatiyah camps, Al al-Shaykh said that there were around 28,000 refugees and that they were receiving the full care and attention of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz, and that they had been provided with all the services: health, food, communications, and others.

He pointed out that a university center was being prepared at their location, in addition to the possibility of opening workshops for the refugees for them to have the opportunity to send their produce to the markets of Rafha, and some of them could be useful by teaching their brothers in the camp.

Regarding the role of the UN High Commission for Refugees, Al al-Shaykh said: Its role lies in administering the affairs of refugees in the world. The officials of the High Commission have demonstrated their readiness to cooperate with the Kingdom to facilitate the return of Iraqi refugees who wish to return to their country.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message on West

JN0408095692 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab States, has received a message from His Excellency Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on current Arab developments in light of the new developments in the Libyan-Western crisis. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sid, envoy of the Libyan president, conveyed the message to his highness the president during a meeting today. [passage omitted]

Gunman Fires at Czech UN Guard in Baghdad

NC0208182392 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 2 (AFP) - An unidentified assailant on Sunday fired a shot at a United Nations guard here but missed him, a UN official said. "In the morning a shot was fired by a light weapon on a parking area in front of the Palestine hotel" where UN personnel are staying, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The official said the man targeted had Czechoslovak nationality. "We have complained officially to the Iraqi Government," the official said, adding that the most recent of several incidents against the United Nations in Iraq would not change the organization's activities.

But he added: "We are concerned."

The official said that, starting Sunday, the number of UN guards in Iraq had decreased from 320 to 220, including 30 in Baghdad. The repatriation of 100 guards has been expected for a while and has no connection to the shooting.

About 900 UN personnel, including guards and humanitarian officials, are working in Iraq, officials at the organization's headquarters in New York reported over a week ago.

On July 16 a UN guard from Fiji was shot in the head and killed while he was sleeping in his bed in Dahuk, in the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq.

Shortly before that incident, two UN guards in Irbil, also a Kurdish area, were wounded by a grenade. Kurdish sources also said an attack had been carried out against UN offices in al- Sulaymaniyah, also in northern Iraq.

UN personnel have been pursuing their work since July 1 while Baghdad has still not given its approval to renewing the accord on the issue with the United Nations, which expired at the end of June.

Official on 'Alleged Incident'

JN0308200692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Commenting on reports carried by news agencies citing a UN official in Baghdad as saying that at 0500 on Sunday, 2 August, an unknown assailant fired at a UN guard in Baghdad, but missed him, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

The coordinator of programs for the UN office of humanitarian aid in Iraq submitted a memorandum on Sunday evening to the Foreign Ministry, claiming that an unknown assailant had fired at a Czech UN guard at 0500 on 2 August in front of the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad.

The memorandum asked that competent Iraqi authorities be informed of the incident so as to conduct an investigation, with the help of and in consultation with, the official in charge of UN guards.

On the morning of 3 August, Hiroshi Matsomoto [name as received], deputy coordinator of the program, met with a Foreign Ministry official and told him that the official in charge of UN guards, his deputy, and two Iraqi security officers, had inspected the site of the alleged incident, and that the claim of the Czech guard could not be confirmed. The Iraqi official asked the deputy coordinator to state this by sending a follow-up memorandum and he promised to submit it later to the Foreign Ministry.

The official spokesman added that Iraqi authorities have taken security precautions to protect UN personnel, with the approval and cooperation of the United Nations, and that the site of the alleged incident has been placed under protection.

Baghdad Radio on Joint U.S.-Kuwaiti Maneuvers

JN0308113492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] U.S. Forces will begin joint maneuvers today with the forces of the regime imposed on Kuwait within the framework of the aggressive military agreement signed between the two sides.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said that the maneuvers, in which more than 5,000 men will participate, confirm the U.S. commitment to the rulers imposed on Kuwait.

It should be recalled that the rulers imposed on Kuwait signed an aggressive and colonialist military agreement in accordance with which Kuwait was turned into a U.S. protectorate. This agreement provides for conducting joint military maneuvers and storing military equipment in Kuwait.

APFC Denounces U.S., Urges Release of Assets

JN0108161792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] has praised struggler President Saddam Husayn's historic and unique leadership and the stand he adopted in the face of U.S. tyranny, its Zionist ally, and its traitorous agents. In a statement to INA on the second anniversary of the day of the great call and the start of the great duel of the eternal Mother of Battles epic, APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said that Iraq's decisive victory over the anti-Arab, covetous Iranian aggression projected the Iraqi Ba'th Party's strike capabilities, corrected the upset in the balance of power, curbed the aggressive adventures of the Tel Aviv clique, and brought closer the day of the liberation of Arab Palestine and every other inch of the pure and great homeland.

Hammudi added: The Mother of Battles exposed the falsehood of the solidarity used by some Arab rulers to conceal their agentry and their collusion with foreigners against the nation's present and future. This epic, he stated, also has unleashed a sweeping popular, pan-Arab wave. This wave has made a clear distinction between the Arab trench and the quagmire of traitors and renegades, who fought Iraq

under an American flag stained with the blood of Arabs, Muslims, and the free peoples of the world.

Hammudi called for stepping up demands to lift the unjust blockade being imposed on the steadfast Iraqi people and to release frozen Iraqi assets in Arab and foreign banks in order to enable 18 million people to get food, medicine, and milk for babies and to enjoy an honorable life.

APFC Head Meets PLO Leader

JN0208181092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], has met with Taysir Khalid, PLO Executive Committee member, head of the delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Palestine National Council member. During the meeting, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi reviewed APFC activities and its branches inside and outside of the Arab homeland to establish a popular front opposed to U.S. hegemony and its new world order.

He stressed that the Iraqi people's steadfastness, under leader President Saddam Husayn, in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance is viewed as a victory for the Arab nation, an expression of its free will, and its rejection of trusteeship, aggression, and interference in domestic affairs. He also praised the brave Palestinian intifadah and it struggle against aggressive Zionist settlement, pointing out that victory will be for our Palestinian people, who will achieve their legitimate right to their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Taysir Khalid also expressed the pride of the Palestinian people and their national forces in the position of the Iraqi people and their historic leadership, as well as their confrontation of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance, which is aimed at imposing foreign trusteeship and hegemony over Iraq and the Arab nation. The PLO Executive Committee member hailed the new construction campaign in Iraq as a genuine reply to the goals of aggression, which are aimed at foiling Iraq's progressive pan-Arab project and entrenching the Zionist occupation.

'Aziz Confers With DFLP's Taysir Khalid

JN0108195892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and official in charge of the liberation movements' office, this evening received the delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] headed by Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Palestine National Council.

During the meeting, Taysir Khalid conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the Palestinian leadership, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, and the Palestinian people to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people on the glorious July celebrations. He also stressed firm support for Iraq's steadfastness in confronting the aggression and the blockade imposed on it.

The two men reviewed the current situation in the Palestinian arena. They stressed the unity of the Arab struggle in Palestine and the Arab homeland in the face of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy, as well as the need to strengthen the steadfastness and struggle of national and revolutionary forces throughout the Arab homeland.

Hamadi—Blockade Will 'Erode Through Patience'

JN0308153492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said that the Mother of Battles will remain a battle of open fronts as long as the blockade continues. The minister also said that this blockade will erode through patience.

Upon awarding medals of distinguished merit to several intellectuals and members of the media, he said that the will of the people and the revolution to achieve victory are not mere slogans but represent a consistent fact proven by an experience full of principled stands and marvelous accomplishments extending from 2 August 1990, the great Day of the Call, to this very day. This started with an Iraqi "no" to undisputed U.S. control and domination over the region's resources and passed through the heroic battles of confrontation against the forces of the 30-state aggression.

Hammadi added that, despite the unjust blockade, Iraq's march has been boosted by the people's rallying behind their leader, the foiling of all forms of conspiracies, and Iraq's refusal to be intimidated by the enemy's threats and the screams of its hirelings—the shaykhs and rulers who are watching over the interests of the monopolistic companies in the region.

He added that this rallying was manifested when the leadership rejected the inspection of the state's civilian establishments—including the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation—in a manner that would have encroached on Iraq's dignity and sovereignty and, by doing so, forced the enemy to submit to the will of Iraq.

Trade Minister, Italian Group Discuss Blockade

JN0108152492 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 1, INA—Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister, has confirmed that the inhumane economic blockade imposed by the Bush administration on Iraq was a pre-designed resolution for murdering Iraq's children, women and the elderly.

In a meeting with the Italian Bridge Group to Baghdad, the minister explained efforts of the Trade Ministry to counter the adverse effects of the embargo and damage befell food and grain stores as a result of the U.S.-led 30-state aggression, calling upon the world humanitarian organizations to press their governments for freeing the Iraqi assets frozen abroad.

The Italian delegation showed understanding as concerns suffering on the Iraqi people and its readiness to render assistance and work of lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

'Ala' Husayn 'Ali Congratulates Saddam

JN0308180592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from 'Ala' Husayn 'Ali [head of the government installed in Kuwait by Baghdad during the Iraqi occupation] on the anniversary of the great Day of the Call, in which he expressed the love and appreciation of the honorable Kuwaitis for his excellency.

The cable says: On the anniversary of the great Day of the Call, when our holy land from the mountain to the sea was united, I extend to Your Excellency, in my name and on behalf of all honorable men in our dear Kuwait, our most sincere love and appreciation to the knight of the nation and maker of its glory. We will always remain at your beck and call. May God grant you success, Mr. Leader President, and preserve you as a beacon to guide future generations.

Saddam Husayn Cables Yasir 'Arafat on Birthday

JN0408093292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine on the occasion of his birthday.

The cable reads: It is a pleasure to us on the occasion of your birthday to send to your excellency the best fraternal congratulations and wishes, wishing you good health and long life in leading the militant victorious march of our brotherly Palestinian Arab people toward the realization of their full nationalist objectives of liberation and restoration of their full sovereignty on the beloved land of Palestine, and setting up their independent state, whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

On this happy occasion, we emphasize our support for the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative against the Zionist occupation.

Please accept our heartfelt amity and fraternal and sincere compliments on this dear occasion.

Peace be upon you.

Saddam Chairs 2 Aug Cabinet Meeting

JN0308122092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn presided over a special meeting of the Council of Ministers last night. The meeting lasted approximately four hours.

At the outset of the meeting, his excellency exchanged congratulations with the ministers on the glorious July days and the second anniversary of the great Day of the Call.

His excellency said: The August days have their own sweetness just like the days of July, April, Ramadan, and the other days on which people exchange congratulations.

During the meeting, the president instructed the ministers to pay attention to good performance in the economic and services sectors, and to use untraditional formulas to reactivate the economy in general, benefiting in this regard from the accumulation of national expertise and the Iraqi creativity that achieved great results in the industrial and other sectors, something which will expedite progress and erode the blockade imposed by U.S. imperialism.

His excellency also stressed the need to reduce the suffering of citizens of limited income, and the importance of flexibility in the flow of commodities to prevent monopolies and exploitation of the market situation.

His excellency also instructed the ministers to accurately set their ministries' priorities, to be aware of and expect some negative social phenomena to result from inflation, and to concentrate on increasing production and on reducing the number of brokers. He said that we should seize this historical opportunity to nourish our economy and reduce our reliance on oil exports as the only resource of economic activity.

At the end of the meeting, his excellency ordered that two committees be formed to study the economic and social issues discussed at the meeting, and to come up with practical proposals within 3 weeks at the latest.

It should be remembered that Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi is on a mission in al-Ta'mim Governorate.

'Exploratory' Oil Well in Desert Drilled

JN0308113892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—The oil technical and engineering cadres have started drilling the first exploratory well in the 'Akash field in the western desert.

The Iraqi Drilling Company and the North Oil Company, for the first time in the history of Iraq, began to take the necessary measures to complete the drilling operations and to conduct the required exploratory tests on the results of drilling in the 'Akash site, which is expected to be accomplished in full during the second quarter of next year.

These operations are expected to result in the discovery of promising oil reservoirs which could change many of the balances related to oil reserves.

Products Unveiled at Atomic Energy Organization

JN0208174892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] At the Atomic Energy Organization today, Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to his excellency the president and supervisor of industry and oil, inaugurated three pioneering systems: A pioneering system for producing liquid sugar from dates of the [word indistinct] brand, a pioneering system for producing volatile oils, and a mobile technologies system [manzumat al-tiqaniyyah al-mutanaqillah].

While walking in the halls used for housing these systems, the adviser to his excellency the president listened to a

detailed explanation by scientists, researchers, and officials regarding the importance of the pioneering systems.

A pioneering system capable of producing seven liters of liquid sugar from 10 kg of dates of the [word indistinct] brand has been designed, manufactured, and operated. Hence, sugar prices will go down.

In a related development, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan inaugurated an exhibition of new products manufactured by the Atomic Energy Organization. He visited the exhibition's various pavilions, which contained agricultural, medical, pharmaceutical, chemical, and physical products, as well as other goods. These products truly reflect the inventiveness and creativity of enlightened Iraqi minds.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education and scientific research, and several officials from the Military Industrialization Organization.

Husayn Kamil Cables Saddam on New Harvester

JN0108201792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Aug 92

["Text" of cable by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of industry and oil, to President Saddam Husayn on the manufacture of a harvester—date not given]

[Text] To the patron of creativity and the builder of Iraq's glory, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him: Our heroic Iraqi people are marking the glorious Day of the Call, the day on which we restored right to its people and the branch to its root, the day on which your sons in al-Jahra' and al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] met with their brothers in blood and honor. During these eternal days, our Iraqi people are expressing their national unity in the best way possible.

Your excellency, the victorious leader: We are very pleased to announce something new with regard to breaking the unjust blockade and safeguarding the security of our proud people's food under circumstances in which right prevailed over wrong [words indistinct] to hurt great Iraq's sovereignty and its steadfast people's dignity. It is good news from your mujahidin in the Military Industrialization on the manufacture of the al-Rafidayn harvester by Iraqi men for the first time in our country.

Your excellency, the mujahid leader: Look, there! Your struggling men daily, as you know, are adding new achievements toward building the edifice of beloved Iraq with great trust. They derive from your leadership strength, firmness, and insistence to overcome the difficulties and convert the aggression and the blockade into [word indistinct] to build an industrial and scientific basis [words indistinct] because of your sound instructions and your continued inspection of our [word indistinct] scientific program in the Military Industrialization, in which the desire for creativity has become a distinctive phenomenon and in which we take pride before our people and our great leader.

The precise coordination and cooperation among the units of the Military Industrialization have greatly contributed to this glorious achievement. Your men in the Military Industrialization call it the al-Rafidayn harvester out of loyalty to the land of civilization, the eternal al-Rafidayn land, which flows with wealth and science for the sons of this honest country.

On this glorious anniversary of the Day of the Call, achievements continue and epics are recorded with great determination and challenge. Your sons in the Military Industrialization will carry out numerous industrial projects, projects which are considered a fruit of love and a true expression of the Iraqis' loyalty to their leader and their great people.

Your excellency, the symbol leader: On the Day of the Call, the men of the Military Industrialization pledge to continue the epics and achievements in which the spirit of sacrifice and the rare values of heroism are epitomized. They seek to build our new Iraq of challenge and loftiness and invest all available resources and creative energy to always realize technological progress and construction and open new, brilliant horizons that will lead our dear people to the summits of continued strength and dignity.

Your excellency the leader, may God preserve you as a symbol of our strength and loftiness. May your banner continue to flutter in the sky of glory.

[Signed] Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of industry and oil

Further Reportage on Punishment of Merchants

'Swindlers' Denounced

JN0108181992 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 28 Jul 92 p 1

[Editorial: "....."]

[Text] On Sunday, 26 July, citizens waited for the clock to strike 2300 so that they could watch the proceedings of the ceremony during which his excellency the leader president awarded medals of honor to a few comrades. They waited once again to listen to his excellency the president's speech to avenge themselves against their victimizers—the merchants. What has taken place over the past two days is almost a bloodless revolution. Most sectors of our population are happy and jubilant about this. Scores of Iraqis have been seen pouring into the market to see the greedy merchants, around whose necks small signs are hung telling of their greed and their exploitation of the people. This indicates that the person who made this decision made a proper one. This episode also means that the Ministry of Interior has been successful in handling the issue on an individual basis rather than collectively. Handling this issue collectively could have provided merchants with the chance to regroup and to organize themselves in such a way so as to achieve personal goals. It is worth noting that most of the merchants who were punished came from a group of youths whom we know quite well. Their names have been released. They do not belong to the upper middle class. Indeed, they belong to the middle middle class. When they were in high

school, each of them barely had 15 dinars in his pocket. While in college, they were rarely in possession of 40 dinars each. But right now, each of them possesses scores of millions of dinars.

The other real gain achieved lies neither in the decline in prices that has been realized, nor in the fact that suspect merchants have been hit. Rather, it lies in the fact that a lesson has been taught to scores of merchants who are now sitting in their homes. The reference here is to those merchants who dashed into the realm of trade to make a fast buck, exploiting current circumstances. Prior to 2 August 1990, when the operation to liberate Kuwait was launched, we all remember how numerous were the import and export offices that opened to export urea, fertilizers, and sulfur. While on the street, you could easily run into someone telling you of his readiness to export this or that material when, in point of fact, most of them were really swindlers.

After the operation to liberate Kuwait was launched, the number of those engaged in trade increased considerably. Most of these people were either failures in their studies, professions, scientific life, or the posts they occupied, or they were army service deserters. They also might have been discharged from military service. As a result, we have seen the emergence of a group of petty merchants who buy commodities from big merchants and then sell them to shops at high prices, the burden of which is born by citizens. Indeed, there is now information stating that there are two cartels or groups, each of which consists of five merchants, which have managed to manipulate the market to serve their own selfish interests. These cartels might hide behind certain political objectives. This tactic is used by Iranian merchants to achieve their purposes. The Gulf peoples have learned these tactics from the Iranians. Therefore, we do not rule out the possibility that the Saudis and Kuwaitis might use these tactics in the alleyways of the bazaar.

The state of jubilation and extreme relief felt by the people indicates the immense suffering and excruciating pain caused to them by merchants. It also points to the feeling of injustice that has begun to grow and expand within the psyches of a large sector of our population; namely, the proletariat class as well as the middle class. This is a phenomenon that has proved beneficial to two hostile organizations—the al-Da'wah Party, which professes to be capable of applying certain Islamic principles to achieve equilibrium with regard to living conditions, and the communists, who draw on their well-known Marxist theories allegedly uniting society, but which, in point of fact, have caused the downfall of a great empire, the Soviet Union.

We have observed that rumors, not only in difficult and critical circumstances but also in ordinary circumstances, do not need a long time to spread and to circulate. They are launched in the morning, and by evening you hear them on everyone's lips. When these rumors are examined, you come up with the conclusion that they are spread either by the al-Da'wah Party or the Communist Party.

Therefore, the Baghdadis' main preoccupation for the third consecutive day has continued to be the gleeful communication of news about merchants and imagining the punishment that will be meted out against them. Once again, some merchants have proved that they are being manipulated by an actual, albeit covert, organization, the end of whose strings are known only to God and whose objective and purpose is to go to excess in exploiting the laboring and middle classes and to weaken steadfastness in the face of the blockade.

Calculated whispers have been aired by some merchants, whose intention is to turn these whispers into a rumor meant to kill jubilation and to nurse a fear of the future within the people's minds and hearts. They have begun to say the following: "What can we do? We will quit trade." Others say: "The best thing to do is to close down our shops and stores." Another group of merchants muses: "Whoever did this will discourage us from bringing anything in." Yet another group of merchants says: "By so doing, they will cause us to hate our profession. Instead of causing a decline in prices, there will be price hikes." Indeed, the only thing that succinctly describes these merchants and their thinking is the following Koranic verse: "If it had been our will, we should have elevated him with our signs; but he inclined to the earth and followed his own vain desires. His similitude is that of a dog: If you attack him, he lolls out his tongue, or if you leave him alone, he still lolls out his tongue. That is the similitude of those who reject our signs; so relate the story; perchance they may reflect."

Friday Prayers Sermons Warn Merchants

JN3107155992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Mosque preachers in Iraq have denounced the UN inspection teams' acts of provocation aimed at compromising the sovereignty of Iraq and the dignity of its people. In sermons during Friday noon prayers, preachers rejected these immoral practices as an open violation of divine values and a gross interference in Iraq's internal affairs, as well as representing a breach of the country's sovereignty and dignity.

The preachers exhorted merchants to stay clear of exploitation, ill-gotten gains, and capitalizing on the people's need for food. They also urged the people to follow the example of Prophet Muhammad's companions in the way that they braved adverse conditions during the early years of Islam.

Hoarding Food Serves 'U.S. Scheme'

JN0108203892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, accompanied by comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Euphrates organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, visited the headquarters of the al-Muthanna and al-Saddah groups affiliated with the Babil branch of the party.

In a speech delivered during his meeting with the comrade secretaries and members of the commands of the two groups, Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the zealous sons of the Tigris and Euphrates will tear apart the chapter of the unjust blockade through their creative work, their cooperation, and their dependence on their own resources.

Those who provide the people with the means of livelihood at reasonable prices that do not overburden citizens, he added, actually contribute to breaking the blockade and deny the enemies any opportunities. As for those who hoard foodstuffs under the current circumstances, they only serve the U.S. scheme and its dirty chapter represented by the unjust economic blockade.

Taha Yasin Ramadan praised the courageous stands of the Ba'thist strugglers, the vanguard of the nation, who—along with the zealous sons of the nation, sons eager to preserve the honor of this homeland—have valiantly opposed all the chapters of the aggression, including the chapter of treachery and treason. Thus, they deserve this status, keeping their heads high by virtue of their noble national stands.

The comrades of the two groups pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain soldiers loyal to principles, to defend Iraq's dignity, and to remain brandished swords and potential martyrs standing firmly against any plots or aggression aimed at undermining Iraqi sovereignty and security.

Reportage on Opposition; Rebel Radio Reports

Regime 'Hurtling Toward the Abyss'

NC0308210392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 92

["Call to the Iraqi People" by Shukri Salih Zaki, identified as a former Iraqi education and finance minister and a "pillar" of the Iraqi opposition; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: This is a call and a message.

First, this is a call to all the sons of the Iraqi people—men and women—who have been burned by the fire of injustice and bloody terrorism and who continue to suffer calamities, disasters, and horrors at the hands of the cutthroat tyrant whose bloodthirsty soul has not yet had its fill of his compatriots' blood and who still is carrying the scythe of death, severing heads with impunity.

To all of you, I say: May God help you to bear the calamity. Your suffering for the cutthroat Saddam's sins and crimes is a great ordeal and a severe test of your tenacity and steadfastness and your ability to resist. Endure; God is with those who persevere. [Koranic verse] The day of relief and salvation from the nightmare of terrorism is near. Know that the countdown has begun to cast Iraq's butcher into the dustbin of history, like other tyrants. Soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Second, this is an open message to all those it may concern among the pillars of the gang who have agreed to be humble mounts for the tyrant to ride and direct wherever he wishes.

This is an open message to all those who, voluntarily or involuntarily, became a brick in the fortifications and walls behind which Iraq's butcher takes refuge.

This is an open message to Iraqi ambassadors and diplomats. We tell them: It is enough that you have borne the sin and crime of representing a gang that calls itself a state. Let your sense of personal dignity and moral value be greater than the temptations and privileges of office.

This is an open message to all those who might be tempted to degrade themselves and agree to be a spy or informer in the butcher Saddam's security and intelligence agencies.

This is an open message to the choirs of hypocrites, flatterers, and clowns. We tell them that the curtain is about to come down and end this bloody drama and end the roles you have played—voluntarily or involuntarily—over the years.

To all these we address this message. We tell them: The countdown for the tyrant's fall has begun. We shout in their ears; perhaps the shout will reach their hearts and minds: Staying one more day in the tyrant's ranks and in his service will lay a greater responsibility on your shoulders when the day of accounting comes, and that day is near. Hopefully their consciences will awaken and they will realize before it is too late that serving the homeland and commitment to morality and right is more honorable and more deserving of loyalty than serving a butcher who has caused every Iraqi home to mourn its dead or complain of the wrongs it suffered. We advise them to jump off the bandwagon, which is hurtling toward the abyss, and leave the butcher to his inevitable fate.

Our last word is to those who protect the people and defend the sanctities, those who cannot accept injustice for much longer—they are the valiant heroes in these times of adversity—we tell the officers and troops of the Iraqi Army: You are the hope; you, who deserve respect and veneration, have a date with history. Do not break that date.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be with you.

Government Shelling PUK Positions

NC0308193192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1709 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The dictatorial troops shelled the headquarters of the 23rd battalion of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the villages of Jalaw, (Nawqut), and [name indistinct] in the Karkuk Governorate last night.

'More Facts' on Coup Attempt Reported

NC0108160992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] More facts have been disclosed about the recent coup attempt against the tyrant Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi Communist Party in Damascus, citing sources in Iraq, says that Saddam was about to flee the country in a military plane on the morning of the coup attempt. Eyewitness say they saw Saddam drive his car to the al-Muthanna airport the morning of the coup attempt and board a military plane that had just landed. The sources said that the outcast tyrant remained in the plane for approximately a half hour before disembarking and leaving the airport in a hurry.

The sources say that employees of the Presidential Office report that a number of office employees were linked with the coup attempt and that tyrant Saddam executed them all the next day. The sources said that Brigadier General Sabri Mahmud 'Abd al-Jabburi, commander of the 5th mechanized brigade, led coup forces.

The sources stressed that since the coup attempt, Saddam's repressive agencies in Baghdad have been on a state of alert. Republican Guards forces have surrounded Baghdad and its suburbs. Detachments of the tyrant's forces have been deployed in the streets, public squares, and around government buildings. They occasionally search pedestrians.

Talabani's VOA Interview Reported

NC0308195892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1727 GMT 3 Aug 92

["Text" of an interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by unidentified Voice of America, VOA, correspondent, in Washington, D.C.; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] VOA: After meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, newspapers and news agencies carried a report about your demand for weapons and equipment to fight the Iraqi regime. Can this stance, coming after the halt of the negotiations with the regime, be regarded as a change in your strategy?

Brother Talabani: As you know, the Kurdistan Front operates within the framework of the Iraqi opposition. It is the same opposition that formed several committees at the Vienna conference. The purpose of our visit here with other representatives of the Iraqi opposition is to meet with U.S. officials. Our meeting with Mr. Baker was fruitful and positive. My participation in the delegation is proof that the Kurdistan Front's alliance with the people and the Iraqi opposition is continuing with the aim of establishing democracy in Iraq and obtaining Kurdish self-determination within a democratic and united Iraq.

VOA: Mr. Talabani: I am asking whether this can be considered a change in the Kurdistan Front's policy on the negotiations, now that they have stopped.

Brother Talabani: Actually I consider our stance a continuation of this policy because the Kurdistan Front's policy has always been based on alliance with the opposition forces. The negotiations were a tactical method used with the Iraqi regime. The negotiations, however, failed as a result of the regime's intransigence, its refusal to carry out democratic changes and reinstate rights [words indistinct]

VOA: We gather from what you are saying that all the parties approved of severing ties with the government.

Brother Talabani: The delegation that will meet with U.S. officials includes Mas'ud Barzani and myself. We represent the two chief parties in the Kurdish liberation movement. We have shared the seats of the freely elected Kurdistan parliament. In fact, our views represent the Kurdistan Front's policy. I believe that any issue we submit for discussion represents the front's policy.

VOA: According to what you say, the Kurds do not intend to secede from Iraq; they are simply demanding self-determination inside a democratic, free, and united Iraq. Does this jibe with remarks published by a Turkish newspaper and attributed to you that you intend to form an alliance with Turkey?

Brother Talabani: Actually what I have said is identical to what was published by [paper's name indistinct]. There is a big difference between forming an alliance and altering the geographical map. I said openly that this alliance does not mean changing the region's geography. The Kurdish people need an alliance with their neighbors and [words indistinct] the names of those neighbors directly as Iran, Turkey, and Syria. This is [words indistinct] because the current changes in Turkey in connection with the development of democracy; recognizing the existence of the Kurdish people, their citizenship rights, and other rights. These other rights, including cultural rights—their right to be represented in parliament, to form political parties, and publish newspapers and magazines—constitute an appropriate basis for a political alliance between the Iraqi Kurds and the Republic of Turkey.

VOA: Our last question is about the results of your meeting with Baker. Did the United States promise to extend material or any other assistance to topple Saddam Husayn's regime?

Brother Talabani: I believe that the most important results of the meeting were: First, that the United States expressed a definite view that the dictatorship must be toppled and replaced by a democratic system in Iraq. This system must represent the entire Iraqi people and be established through free elections. Secondly, a U.S. recognition of the Kurdish people's right to self-determination within a democratic Iraq in line with the Vienna conference resolutions.

Spokesman on Inter-Kurdish Clashes

NC0308174392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] representative in Ankara has said that armed clashes between two Kurdish parties, including PUK members, in northern Iraq last week were caused by personal differences and feuds. Serchil Kazzaz told REUTER today that the PUK has no intention of getting involved these clashes, which left 29 people dead. According to reports at the time, members of Jalal Talabani's PUK killed 27 members of the Islamic Kurdistan Movement [Harakat Kurdistan al-Islamiyah] in an area south of Sulaymaniyah after two PUK members were killed by a group belonging to the other movement.

Bank Governor Rejects 'Any Economic Conditions'

TA0408102092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 92 p 2

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Excerpts] Israel will not accept any economic conditions imposed by the U.S. Administration in order to receive the loan guarantees. This message will be relayed by Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, who is leaving tonight for the United States to hold talks on the issue. [passage omitted]

In meetings held yesterday to finalize the issues Professor Frenkel will raise with the Americans, it was decided that Israel will not agree to the Americans' outlining an economic policy or imposing any economic conditions whatsoever. "We will be happy if our policy is compatible with the position of the Americans," Treasury officials stated yesterday. "We also favor privatization, exposing the economy to foreign products, reducing the deficit, and lowering taxes.

"These steps, however, must be part of an economic policy that Israel believes in and should not be taken because the Americans tell us it is what we must do in order to get the guarantees. We will present our economic positions in the draft of next year's budget. No country, even one that gives us guarantees, can force us to implement any economic measures that contravene our positions."

This stance overturns the earlier position of the Bank of Israel, which was in favor of accepting these economic conditions, thinking that this would make the government take action on issues it has avoided so far. Bank of Israel officials were persuaded to accept the Treasury's position in recent talks.

It has been learned from the Bank of Israel that Prof. Frenkel never agreed to any economic conditions or even to "an outline of understandings." "We have always said that the government's commitment on an economic policy must be addressed to the people, not to the Americans," a senior Bank of Israel source stated.

The Treasury and the Bank of Israel have also narrowed the gap in their positions with regard to the use to be made of the money from the guarantees. [passage omitted]

The Treasury now agrees that the money will not be used to cover the budget deficit. "The government's expenditures will appear in the budget as part of the deficit and will not be linked in any way to the guarantees," a senior Treasury source stated yesterday.

As for the U.S. demand to be allowed to oversee the way in which the money from the guarantees is spent and its emphasis that it should not be diverted to investment in the territories, Israel will not agree to any meticulous supervision but rather to a general control that will preclude any in-depth probe.

In this respect, the Treasury officials stated that the Americans will not run or control Israel's policy. One of the main problems will involve investment in the territories, which the current government defines as "security settlements."

Rabin Comments on Loan Guarantees, Peace Talks

TA0308141492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin suggests waiting patiently for the loan guarantees. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his address to the coalition in the Knesset, the prime minister said that the U.S. loan guarantees are still not in our pockets. Several political and economic issues still have to be worked out. Even when an agreement is reached with the U.S. President, there will have to be an extended process of congressional legislation.

In Mr. Rabin's view, a great deal will be decided in the coming six months. He noted that the government had agreed to resume the political negotiations in Washington later in the month because of a change in atmosphere and approaches by many elements, a change that must be exploited. Mr. Rabin said the aim is to remain in Washington for a whole month and search for solutions.

In reference to the change in national priorities, he said the government had inherited commitments of billions of shekels, so developments also depend on the ability to locate funds abroad.

On coalition issues, Mr. Rabin announced that in a few days time he will ask ministers to take over the portfolios for religious affairs as well as labor and social welfare, which have so far been entrusted to him. The prime minister pointed out that the permanent solution for those portfolios will wait until the Knesset recess is over to permit the coalition to be expanded.

Prime Minister Rabin conferred in the Knesset this afternoon with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan. On leaving the meeting, Knesset Member Eytan told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that they did not discuss Tzomet's joining the coalition. Eytan said he initiated the meeting to hear from the prime minister about his political objectives.

Hawatimah Wants To Meet With MK's, Others

TA0308120592 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 p 8

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, wants to meet with Israeli Knesset members [MK's] and other figures.

Hawatimah met with MK Hashim Mahamid during the latter's visit to Tunis at the head of a delegation of Israeli Arabs who were the guests of the Tunisian Culture Ministry. Hawatimah asked MK Mahamid to arrange meetings for him with Israeli personalities in order to hold a serious and businesslike dialogue.

Hawatimah's request came as a surprise, because he is a known leader of the rejectionist front and has so far refused to meet or hold any contacts with Israelis. "We have reached a situation where we must be pragmatic and join the peace process and the negotiations with Israel," Hawatimah said. He added that he has no problem with openly meeting Israelis anywhere and at any time.

MK Mahamid refused to confirm his meeting with Hawatimah but said that the latter's request was surprising and very significant. Mahamid expressed his belief that Hawatimah's request proves that the Palestinians, even those hitherto considered radicals who oppose any political process between the Palestinians and Israel, are interested in holding meetings.

'Terrorists' Killed in Jordan Valley Incident

TA0408094392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0927 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Here is an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announcement: This morning, three terrorists were killed and two soldiers were injured while foiling an infiltration attempt in the Jordan Rift Valley. An IDF patrol, moving along the Jordanian border early this morning, identified what seemed to be a possible infiltration by several people into our territory. In the ensuing pursuit, one of our units encountered three terrorists some 7 km southeast of Mehola at 0700 [0400 GMT] this morning. The terrorists opened fire at the soldiers and, in the exchange of fire, the three terrorists were killed and two IDF soldiers were injured, one moderately and the other slightly. The soldiers were taken for medical treatment.

The IDF forces at the site operated quickly, efficiently, and professionally, and foiled a terror attack which the terrorists intended to carry out. The terrorists were armed with three Kalashnikov rifles and many magazines.

Jordan To Allow Visit of Arab Local Councils

TA0308113792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have acceded to the request of the Committee of Arab Local Councils to permit its leaders to visit Amman as guests of the Jordanian Municipal Center.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar notes that the request was conveyed by Arab public figures who met in Cairo with the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt.

No date for the visit has been set yet.

Arab Leader Denies Visit Request

TA0408085592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Aug 92 p 20

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Muhammad Zaydan, spokesman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils and the head of the Manda Local Council, yesterday reported that the committee has not asked Jordan to receive an official delegation within the framework of an exchange of municipal delegations, as published in the media yesterday. According to Zaydan, Committee Chairman Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, while in Egypt several weeks ago, asked the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt to allow him to visit Jordan to examine ways to facilitate the pilgrimage of Israeli Arabs who cross through Jordan en route to Mecca.

No official Jordanian reply to this request has been received yet, Zaydan said. According to him, there is no truth to the reports alleging that the Jordanian Government responded favorably to the national committee's request to send a delegation "for the simple reason that we did not seek to send such a delegation."

Jordanian Involvement in Territories Growing

TA0308114292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] As the date of the resumption of the talks in Washington draws near, Jordan—with Israeli encouragement—is increasing its involvement in the territories. It has been learned that Tawfiq Fakhuri, the manager of a major Jordanian bank, the Jordan National Bank, came to Jerusalem and met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on 29 July. He also held talks at the Bank of Israel. In the wake of the talks, it was agreed that Jordan will open another bank—a branch of the Jordan National Bank—in the territories.

The Civil Administration in the territories has offered its Arab employees to draw their salaries through the first Jordanian bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, but so far, few have accepted the offer. Palestinian sources have told our correspondent that Amman officials are discussing the possibility of opening the bridges to West Bank trucks licensed by Israel only and permitting the sale of territories products with Israeli components and products imported through Israeli ports. Such steps would constitute partial disregard of the Arab boycott regulations. The sources stressed, however, that the Jordanians do not intend to take these steps in the near future, but rather as the peace talks progress.

In the middle of last week, several senior Arab police officers, who had served in the territories until the intifadah and resigned thereafter, were summoned to Amman. Jordanian Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul, with whom al-Husayni discussed the issue of the Palestinian police force four days ago, said in Amman that he has no idea what all the talk is about. In any event, the talk about the establishment of a Palestinian police force under Jordanian auspices is premature. Contrary to this reaction, delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi confirmed the report, saying that the discussion revolved around an interim period police force.

Israeli sources close to Rabin have said that the Palestinian police issue was settled in the Camp David accords and that it reflects a need to avert chaos. Nevertheless, they believe that the figure mentioned in the reports—20,000 policemen—was exaggerated.

In connection with the talks on the establishment of a Palestinian police force, Palestinian sources told our correspondent that 'Arafat approved al-Husayni's discussion with the Jordanians. Since 'Arafat did not brief some of his aides on this issue, however, his approval sparked arguments in upper Fatah echelons in Tunis. Palestinian sources

told our correspondent that the Tunis elements are considering issuing a communique in which they will disown the idea.

PLO-Jordan Rapprochement Viewed

TA0308163892 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 p 11

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Stretching the Rope Without Breaking It"; words in boldface as published]

[Text] The discussions held in Amman by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Jordanian security officials on the establishment of a Palestinian police force affiliated with Jordan totally alter the Palestinian delegation's terms of reference and, as predicted by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, place the negotiations on the track of the Camp David accords. The Palestinian delegation has begun to realize that the proposals it raised in Washington—the PISGA [Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority] plan aimed at leading the talks in the direction of Palestinian independence—do not enjoy international or Arab support and that, contrary to its public rhetoric, even the PLO is actually encouraging it to get on a different footing.

Basically, the latest move is a result of the talks held in an Amman hospital by King Husayn and 'Arafat (recovering from brain surgery) at the beginning of June. Husayn finally managed to persuade 'Arafat that they must join forces for a variety of reasons. A very important reason is the danger inherent in the emergence of a leadership in the territories that will take Israel's outstretched hand and reach agreements with it, with or without the Arab world's go-ahead. King Husayn and the PLO leader were aware of the danger that such a leadership might contact Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries in a bid to take advantage of the cracks in the Arab world in the wake of the Kuwait crisis.

Seeing that 'Arafat could not have the PLO institutions give the unambiguous approval sought by Husayn as a condition for bringing forward the establishment of a confederation, the two men agreed on practical steps to that effect. The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations have since then stepped up their meetings in Amman, which have resulted in the budding contacts about the establishment of a joint police force.

It is strange that al-Husayni's name was mentioned in the reports on these contacts, seeing that until the last round of talks he was one of the men who hindered the rapprochement with Jordan and stressed Palestinian independence. A move so closely associated with the Camp David accords could hardly be expected to come from al-Husayni, of all people. Several explanations come to mind, the most plausible probably being that in their meeting in Tunis 'Arafat forced him to meet Jordan halfway on this issue. Hence, al-Husayni will presumably try to confine Jordan's involvement to training alone, rather than to any real control over the Palestinian police force. The political committees headed by Sari Nusaybah are currently discussing internal security affairs, and al-Husayni may have sought to signal them from Amman that he is the boss.

Whatever the case may be, the premature leak to the media has moved the issue of internal security in the autonomy to the top of the agenda. It has also made clear that the Palestinians have given up on another fundamental demand included in PISGA, the demand for international patronage over the territories during the transitional period. Now they are talking about Jordan's involvement in internal security issues. If this is the case, the Israeli Army will probably remain in the territories during the same period.

Last week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Labor's Knesset faction that Jordan's involvement in the territories should be enhanced. Although he did not elaborate, now that there is talk about a Palestinian police force affiliated with the Jordanian police we understand what he was talking about. If PLO supporters in the territories accept this approach, this will be a radical change in their basic perceptions. If they do not, quite a few problems are expected to emerge in the territories, within the PLO and in Jordan, and all these dangers should be taken very seriously.

The crisis at al-Najah University taught PLO supporters in the territories who conducted the negotiations with Rabin an important lesson: that they can reach a better understanding with Israel than with the armed groups who went into the campus to disrupt the election campaign. The agreement between Israel and the moderate leaders of Nabulus on the voluntary removal of these men set a precedent. The armed groups interpreted the message the same way. By way of a threat and warning, a leaflet issued in Balatah (the refugee camp where most of the deported men came from) mentioned the heads of the Palestinian delegation and the Nabulus dignitaries by name. The fact that both the former and the latter belong to Fatah had no bearing on the issue. Fatah's "politicians" in Nabulus cannot count on Fatah's military force in the city, which has turned against them.

According to reports, the PLO ordered Black Panther and the military force of al-Shabibah, Fatah's youth movement, to submit to the authority of the political flank in the territories, but this order was scornfully rejected. Attempts to have Black Panther members turn themselves in to the Army through the Red Cross in an orderly fashion and without any bloodshed have not met with any success either. Therefore, the Palestinian delegates and the moderate public figures must have the backing of an armed force ("a strong police force"). Israel cannot train this force (in view of its "reputation" for breaking arms and legs during the intifadah), which leaves Jordan to do so. According to this scenario, Palestinians who used to be on Jordanian intelligence's black list will ultimately travel to Amman to train in the use of arms and will then return to the West Bank to uphold security against other PLO groups! Anybody who does not think there is a problem here does not understand the basics of how the system in the territories works. It will be very hard to promote such a plan, which may have been seriously impaired by the premature publicity.

It should be pointed out that Jordan has remained silent on the subject. Although Jordanian officials confirmed it on Saturday, al-Husayni's announcement was apparently not coordinated with them. Jordan is in a difficult position. On

the one hand, it cannot agree with the Palestinian delegation's plans to keep it from dealing with issues pertaining to the territories because of Jordan's large Palestinian population. On the other hand, Jordan realizes that its direct involvement in the affairs of the territories could boomerang against it. The intifadah ruined Jordan's position in the territories and forced King Husayn to declare a severance of relations. The problem is not Jordan's position in the territories but its position on the east bank of the Jordan River.

Last week the Jordanian Parliament issued a statement criticizing the political process and the plan to set up self-government in the territories and calling for the fervent pursuit of the intifadah. This statement did not differ much from the statements issued by the rejectionist organizations. Over the weekend, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the PLO's ambassador in Amman, released a communique denouncing the Jordanian Parliament's statement and demanding that it stay out of the affairs of the Palestinians. Contrary to what one might think, the parliament's statement did not reflect the position of the king's court. Quite the contrary, it reflected the objections of the **Palestinian** opposition in Jordan to Husayn's and 'Arafat's joint policy. Through the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan, the king gave parliamentary expression to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and to the rejectionist organizations that constitute a big force in Jordan's elected parliament.

Jordan's direct involvement in the territories might awaken sleeping dogs not just on the West Bank but also on the east bank of the river. Nevertheless, Jordan wants to maintain its influence from a distance by means of better coordination with the Palestinian delegation and diplomatic involvement in developments in the territories. We will probably not see any clear Jordanian involvement in the territories except on two issues: East Jerusalem (particularly the al-Aqsa Mosque), and economic influence through its banks in the territories (the relatively old Cairo Amman Bank and a new branch of the Jordan National Bank, whose opening is being discussed these days). A Palestinian police force under direct Jordanian command—as Rabin would probably like to see—would not strengthen Jordan's position. On the contrary, it would undermine its standing both on the west and east banks of the Jordan River.

'Arafat is also in for trouble due to the strengthening of relations between his supporters and Jordan. Once again last week Popular Front leader George Habash threatened to split the PLO if 'Arafat pursues the political process. 'Arafat's initiative to increase Jordan's influence in the territories will not improve relations within the PLO, not just among the armed groups who refuse to turn themselves in to the authorities but also within the established leadership.

More than any other group within the PLO, it was the Popular Front that in the course of the intifadah urged the removal of Jordan from any position of influence in the territories. At this point, restoring Jordan's position (with 'Arafat's approval, if not through his initiative) would be interpreted by the Popular Front as belittling not just the anti-Israeli but also the anti-Jordanian achievements of the intifadah.

As may be recalled, one of the "achievements" of the intifadah was that Arab policemen resigned. This move absolutely frustrated the Palestinians because they were unable to set up an effective force to replace the policemen who had either quit or been murdered, and the West Bank turned into a thieves' paradise. The policemen will now return, and under Jordan's sponsorship at that. After Jordan trains it, the Palestinian police force could very well cooperate with Israel against the armed groups in the territories within the framework of a "joint security committee."

Habash's followers in the territories are currently formulating a "honor charter" designed to put an end to the internal fighting. If they suspect that Fatah would rather have Jordan and Israel than the rejectionists as partners to the enforcement of internal order, they are not very likely to go on sitting with it to draft the charter.

'Arafat's actions and maneuvers are based on strengthening ties with Husayn. The question is how far he will be able to stretch the rope without breaking it.

Further On Palestinian Police Force

TA0408100592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Aug 92 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The candidate to head the Palestinian police force is Faruq Amin from Bethlehem. He served in the police force in the territories under Israeli rule and reached the rank of superintendent. It has become apparent that the force will be made up of policemen who were trained by and served under the Israel Police. Palestinian sources told our correspondent that Faruq Amin, together with Faysal al-Husayni, conferred with the Jordanian interior minister and with top Jordanian security officials.

With the rank of superintendent, Amin is the most senior of the Jordanian police officers to have served in the territories and is considered pro-Jordanian. At the outbreak of the intifadah, he resigned, following the intifadah leaflets' orders. When the Palestinian delegation established the technical councils, he joined the police and security council. Four former policemen joined him on his trip to Jordan: one from Nabulus, one from Gaza, and two—Ahmad 'Isa, who was an investigating officer, from the village of Irtah; and 'Abd-al-Karim Mu'ammar from Battir—from the Bethlehem area.

Two days ago, 350 policemen held a gathering in Hebron to protest the fact that they are being ignored. The most senior Hebron policeman is Umiyyah Tahbub [name as published]. His name has also been mentioned as a candidate to head the Palestinian police force. Of all the officers mentioned, Amin is the only one to have started his service under the Jordanian regime. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Invited To Visit Vatican

TA0308113992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 92 p 3

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been officially invited to visit the Vatican. The Foreign Ministry yesterday reported that contacts are being held to coordinate the meeting.

Peres told the cabinet of the invitation in the course of a briefing on last week's unprecedented meeting between a senior Vatican delegation and a delegation of top Foreign Ministry officials.

Peres said he believes that the historic thaw in relations between the Vatican government, which represents the Catholic Church, and the Israeli Government, as representative of the Jewish people, will lead to better relations between Israel and other Catholic countries and communities throughout the world.

Peres confirmed that although the official communique that was issued after the meeting only mentioned "normalization," senior officials in charge of Vatican foreign policy have confirmed that the Holy See intends to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Peres praised Moshe Gilbo'a, the foreign minister's adviser on church affairs, and Israeli Ambassador in Rome Avi Pazner for helping organize the meeting.

Malta Lifts Boycott of Israel, South Africa

TA0408065592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Report from Rome by Yosi Bar]

[Text] Malta has decided to rebel against the Arab countries to which it is linked—primarily Libya—and has lifted the economic boycott of Israel. The Maltese Government did not make the decision public, but a local newspaper revealed yesterday that the government has decided to lift the boycott imposed on Israel and South Africa.

Maltese Prime Minister Fenech Adami told me that a new era has begun in relations between the two countries and that he believes the recent events in our region encouraged Malta to normalize its relations with Israel. The Maltese claim that they do not fear the reaction of the Arabs or of Libya, which has warned Malta to keep its distance from Israel. A very senior official told me, however, that Libya will certainly react to Malta's treason.

Maltese Foreign Minister Guido de Marco hastened to stress that this is not a slap in the face to the PLO but a calculated move which will help Malta's development. Malta will import Israeli technology, mainly in agriculture and irrigation and also regarding fruit and vegetables. Nimr Hammad, the PLO representative in Italy and Malta, refused to react to this, but there is no doubt that he is not pleased with the Maltese decision.

Commentators say that Malta is now making efforts to get closer to the West and to become a member of the EC some day.

Labor, Religious Posts Given to Current Ministers

TA0408103892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appointed Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer labor and social affairs minister and has appointed Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am to be religious affairs minister. Both men will continue to hold their original portfolios as well. Both the labor and the religious affairs cabinet posts, up until now, have been held by the prime minister in the hope that he can hand them over to parties that may join the government coalition in the future.

Settlers Warned Against Private Construction

TA0408045892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is looking for ways to prevent settlers in the territories from realizing their plan for private initiatives to thwart the government decision of freezing construction. Speaking in the Knesset yesterday, Ben-Eli'ezer warned the settlers not to try to deviate from government policy. The government, he said, will ensure that law and order is maintained.

The minister said that while it was true that private initiatives were planned without government funding, there was a link with government policy; there was a reciprocal relationship between freezing construction in the territories and speeding up the peace process.

Yeshiva Ordered Out of Muslim Quarter Houses

TA0408050592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Members of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva have been ordered by police to move out of two houses in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the decision was taken in a meeting last week called by Police Minister Moshe Shahal. Also attending were Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. 'Ateret Kohanim moved into the houses about 18 months ago, after a student of the yeshiva was murdered.

Soldiers Punished After 'Terrorist' Infiltration

TA0408050292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The head of Central Command has accepted the conclusions of the officer appointed to investigate the infiltration of terrorists to an Army base in Hebron on Saturday. The commander of the Hebron area was censured and his deputy reprimanded. Three officers and three other soldiers who were supposed to have been on guard duty at the time were given disciplinary sentences of 21 to 70 days in detention for negligence. The terrorists set fire to two

jeeps, and while the flames were being extinguished, two soldiers suffered smoke inhalation and required hospitalization.

Soldiers Injured; 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash

TA0208065892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were injured in the Khan Yunus area last night. One of the soldiers is in critical condition, another was seriously wounded, and the third sustained light injuries. The families of the injured soldiers have been notified.

The IDF spokesman reports that last night, an IDF contingent that was on duty in the Khan Yunus sector confronted an armed terrorist holed up in one of the houses. In the ensuing firefight, the terrorist, Usamah Muhammad Ali Najar, was killed and several of his suspected accomplices were arrested. The IDF contingent sustained three casualties: one soldier is in critical condition, another is seriously injured, while the third sustained only light injuries.

The slain terrorist belonged to the Fatah organization and was responsible for the shooting incident at the Morag junction in the summer of 1991 in which an Israeli civilian was wounded. He also perpetrated numerous murders of local Arab residents. Usamah Najar had been captured and jailed in the past; however, he escaped approximately one month ago while being taken to court. Since his escape, he participated in the murder of four Arab residents.

The commander of the Khan Yunus sector and the commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip accompanied the troops throughout the entire operation and noted its complexity.

New 'Radical' Group Seeks To 'Liberate' Arabs

TA0408064892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] A group of Israeli Arabs has set up a new extremist organization whose aim is to prepare Israeli Arabs to liberate themselves, as it puts it, from the yoke of Zionism and liberate Arab lands conquered in 1948. The police have no information on this group yet, and the Interior Ministry has not issued the group a license to publish its own newspaper, although such a paper is being distributed in the Arab settlements. With the details, here is Yo'el Dar:

The new group, which appears to be the most radical Arab group ever established inside the Green Line, calls itself the National Front for the Struggle Against Zionism. The guidelines of its platform pay no lip service to peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs. It clearly speaks of forging a strategy designed to liberate the lands conquered in 1948 and win full political independence for the Arab residents currently inhabiting them.

According to the group, this goal will not be attained through declarations but through action that will gradually sever the Arab population from the Zionist entity. This is how the Arabs should go about achieving this: They should set up schools, clinics, associations, and even trade unions that will provide the residents with alternative services. The group also calls for subsidizing Arab farmers who will grow only certain produce; imposing an unofficial boycott on Israeli goods; and, at the same time, promoting the purchase of fruit and vegetables from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The members of the group are also preparing a breakdown of the Arab settlements into regions where popular councils will operate with the authorization of the residents. Furthermore, when the need arises, the councils will draft the residents for defense missions in an attempt to repel attacks on them by the Zionist racists. These guidelines have been presented to the members and supporters, and it is not unlikely that tactical changes will be introduced.

The police know nothing about the existence of the new group, and Interior Ministry Director General 'Amram Kalagy promised to examine whether the periodical in which the National Front's guidelines appeared is properly licensed.

Interior Ministry Orders Arabic Weekly Shut Down

TA0308155292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the closure of the Arabic newspaper AL-SIYASAH. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the official in charge of the Haifa District summoned Khalid Halifa, the newspaper's editor, and informed him of the reasons for the decision, but refused to make them public. The official informed the editor that he has the right to appeal. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar adds that AL-SIYASAH is a small weekly published in the western Galilee.

Over the past two years, the Interior Ministry has closed several newspapers, including local Arabic newspapers, in the northern part of the country. The unofficial reason given was incitement or receiving funds from hostile sources abroad.

House Statement Condemns U.S. Mideast 'Solution'

JN0108091292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jul 92 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman, PETRA—The House of Representatives has issued the following statement:

The successive political developments since the Madrid conference show that the United States seeks to impose a political settlement on the region that contains within it the liquidation of the Palestinian cause through the establishment of autonomy for the inhabitants in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that will legalize occupation and settlements, ban Palestinian refugees from returning to their country, cancel the Palestinian people's national rights, and prejudice the Arab and Islamic identity of Jerusalem.

The U.S. Secretary of State visited the region with a plan for expediting the imposition of the U.S. solution to further split Arab ranks and make separate deals with each Arab party to devour them one after the other.

From this premise, the House of Representatives affirms the following:

1. Its absolute rejection of any solution that liquidates the Palestinian cause and harms the Palestinian people's national rights.

2. Its complete support for the blessed Palestinian intifadah. It asks all the Palestinian forces and factions in the occupied territories to end their disputes and abide by national unity to confront the criminal measures of the occupation.

3. Its absolute rejection of the internationalization of Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, and of the Islamic and Christian holy places under any pretext or excuse. The House also blesses His Majesty King Husayn's initiative to confront the attempts to restore the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and his efforts to close the door in the face of the brokers of the internationalization of Jerusalem as a prelude to judaizing it.

4. The Jordanian House of Representatives affirms that the Zionist settlements, irrespective of whether they are called security or political settlements are a real danger threatening Palestinian land and reflect the Zionist designs of expansion threatening Jordan's sovereignty and security.

5. The autonomy the U.S. Administration imposes seeks to settle Palestinians in the countries where they now reside. The House emphasizes the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland.

6. The Jordanian House of Representatives emphasizes the need for inter-Arab reconciliation and for a minimum level of Arab and Islamic solidarity to repulse the liquidation onslaught and reinstate the inalienable national rights of the Arabs and Muslims.

7. The Jordanian House of Representatives rejects all declarations about the readiness to normalize relations some Arab countries have made and view the premature declaration of these intentions as serving and entrenching the Israeli occupation.

8. The House denounces the continued policy of deportation carried out by the occupation authorities, a policy which reaffirms the continuation of the policy to uproot the Palestinian people from their land.

Invitation to Peace Talks Round Received 1 Aug

JN0208064192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan Saturday received an invitation to attend the sixth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks in Washington beginning Aug. 24 and slated to last for a month, foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said Saturday.

The invitation was delivered jointly by the ambassadors of the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the talks, Dr Abu-Jabir said. [passage omitted]

Security Plan for Territories Under Development

JN0308104092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 92 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan is helping Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza in drawing up a local police security plan to administer the occupied territories during a transitional period of autonomy that Arab-Israeli talks could result in the coming months.

A senior Jordanian official confirmed Sunday that a five-man Palestinian team headed by Faysal al-Husayni, overall leader of Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, was holding talks with Jordanian security officials to chart strategy, which, among other things, calls for establishing a police force.

"Yes, there is a Palestinian team here to discuss security arrangements applied here in Jordan and the possibility of benefitting from our legislation as well as our expertise," the senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times.

According to the official, Palestinian negotiators had asked Jordan to allow four or five men who could be in charge of local security in the occupied territories during the possible interim self-government there to discuss Jordanian legislation with the Kingdom's security officials.

Another official told the Jordan Times that the five-man team was in Jordan "as part of the bilateral (Jordanian-Palestinian) coordination."

He said that the final "framework of this cooperation has not yet taken shape but the idea is definitely there."

"We think it is a good idea to start preparation for interim self- government from now and we are pleased to extend all facilities available to us to the Palestinians," said the official, who also requested anonymity.

He confirmed that the cooperation may include training of a Palestinian police force but said there was still no formal plan of how this would take place.

Another Palestinian delegation, the official confirmed, would also meet with financial officials in the Kingdom to acquaint themselves with the system applied here.

"They would be briefed on the tax and fees systems in preparation for the next stage in the Middle East peace talks," the source explained.

Mr. al-Husayni told Reuters Saturday that "the two sides are discussing arrangements for training and future ties between Jordan and a Palestinian police force as part of preparations for the interim self-governing period."

Although Reuters quoted political sources as saying that the Palestinians wanted up to 20,000 men to have a three-month training in Jordan in basic policing, Jordanian officials said the talks were in their infant stages and no agreements had been reached.

Sources close to the Jordanian-Paletinian coordination efforts said that this week's meetings were aimed at working out technicalities and details, but "there is no clear procedure as such to lay down."

A Palestinian negotiator also confirmed that the idea of a police force was being discussed but did not give any further details.

The Associated Press quoted Efraim Sneh, a former military governor for the occupied territories and legislator from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, as saying that he was aware that such a plan was being considered.

In response to a report by the Israeli daily Ha'aretz which said many candidates for the Palestinian force would be members of the mainstream Fatah movement, Mr. Sneh said that there were issues "requiring clarification... there is no doubt that the background and past of these people will require serious review." He said the estimate of a 20,000-member force seemed high. But he noted that the U.S.-brokered Camp David accords provided for a Palestinian police force under autonomy.

"We must remember there is significance and an advatge to having law enforcement in these areas, and it is preferable that it be done by a local police," Mr. Sneh told Israeli army radio.

The 1978 Camp David accords, which led to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty a year later, outlined an interim, five-year period of self-rule for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

According to this and the Madrid peace conference formula, agreement on the transitional period would be followed by negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. But only in the Camp David accords it was specified that the Israeli army would withdraw from the occupied territories, leaving a force in specified security locations. A "strong police force" would then maintain public order.

The five-man Palestinian team, according to Jordanian sources, includes policemen who previously worked with the Jordanian security department before 1967 and continued to work with the local administration in the occuped territories which is under the jurisdiction of the local minicipalities.

The report of the formation of a Palestinian police force drew immediate criticism from Jewish settlers who oppose any step toward Palestinian autonomy.

The AP quoted settler spokesman Ahaon Domb of Qiryat 'Arba in the West Bank as saying the idea would put masked Arab uprising activists in charge of security in the occupied territories.

[Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 3 August cites Jordanian Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul as telling AFP that "he is absolutely unaware of reports that Jordanian and Palestinian officials are discussing the formation of a Palestinian police force to administer the occupied territories as soon as the transitional period begins. Considering it premature to do so, the minister said the subject will be discussed in due time when necessary."]

Lower House Indicts 1 in Corruption Investigation

JN0408084492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 92 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday referred former Minister of Public Works Mahmud al-Hawamidah to trial for misuse of public funds in a multi-million highway construction contract, but turned down a motion to indict former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and former Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah on the same charges.

The separate votes came after an eight-hour marathon session which started Monday evening during which over 30 deputies spoke in favour and against the House's Investigations Committee to refer all the three former ministers to trial.

While 54 deputies—the required majority—voted in favour of the committee's recommendation against Mr. Hawamidah, the motions against Mr. al-Rifa'i and Mr. 'Awdah could secure only 48 and 51 respectively.

Eleven deputies voted no to sending Mr. al-Hawmidah to trial, while in the case of Mr. al-Rifa'i the negative vote was 17 and Mr. 'Awdah 13. Seven deputies abstained in the vote of Mr. 'Awdah while six abstained on both Mr. al-Rifa'i and Mr. al-Hawamidah. Seven deputies were absent.

Mr. al-Hawamidah's case will now be referred to a nine-member higher council which is chaired by the Upper House Speaker and includes five judges and three senators.

The 22-member Muslim Brotherhood and the nine-member Democratic Bloc supported by independent Islamists led the campaign for indicting the three officials. Among those volting to indict the three officials were current and former ministers.

Arguments in the defence of the three officials concentrated on accusing the special investigations panel of selectivity in

choosing this case for debate ahead of other cases which date back to earlier governments. Some deputies produced documents on this case in which the signatures of the whole cabinet of Mr. al-Rifa'i's tailed decisions endorsing Mr. al-Hawamidah's recommendation to award the contract to an Indian company which undertook the JD 35 million project in 1987. They questioned the selection of these three particular officials without charging or questioning the other ministers.

However, most of the speeches delivered in Monday's session concentrated on the need to weed out corruption and to investigate all cases and rejected accusations that they were motivated by personal vendettas and setting old accounts.

The vote was seen as a key test not only of the democratisation process in Jordan but also of many deputies who were elected on platforms which promised firm moves against corruption and mismanagement and misuse of public office.

Several deputies who spoke during the Monday-Tuesady session and an earlier one on the same subject last Monday underlined this point by saying that many of their colleagues had their eye on their electorate rather than principles and legality while discussing the case in the House.

At the outset of the Monday-Tuesday session, Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat cautioned the deputies that they should not bring arguments and consider the session as judicial.

Many deputies in the House are either former ministers or senior officials who have served in the cabinets of Mr. al-Rifa'i, who was appointed prime minister in 1985. Mr. al-Rifa'i resigned in April 1989, following violent protests against fuel price hikes.

For all practical and technical purposes, the House acted in the capacity of a prosecutor-general and indicted Mr. al-Hawamidah despite arguments by some deputies who are also seasoned lawyers that there was not enough evidence which would stand up in court against any of the three former ministers.

The case in question deals with an 180-kilometre stretch of a 400- kilometre desert highway between al-Jafr and the Iraqi border. The investigations panels found that Mr. al-Hawamidah ignored recommendations from technical experts that the highway be built with asphalt and went ahead to award the contract at JD35 million, thus causing up to JD20 million in loss to the treasury since an asphalt road would have been cheaper.

The panel also found that the contract was awarded despite a parallel but lower offer from another Indian company.

According to the panel, Mr. al-Rifa'i and Mr. 'Awdah colluded with Mr. al-Hawamidah throughout.

The contract was completed and handed to the government in March 1991 except for some five kilometres which are being built now.

U.S. Actions in Gulf of Aqaba Criticized

JN0308091492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
3 Aug 92 p 32

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "A Hostile Act Through Military Means ...!"]

[Text] What the U.S. Navy is doing in the Gulf of Aqaba against the ships heading to and from the port is an act of aggression, and is a military action against the state of Jordan.

We are not included in the UN sanctions, and the United Nations has not assigned U.S. warships the task of obstructing innocent shipping.

By committing this aggression against our country and carrying out military threats on al-'Aqabah port, the United States wants to tell us: I do whatever I want with you and you cannot answer back. You have to obey our instructions—instructions which we ourselves do not yet know yet.

What does Washington want from Jordan? Is it targeting Jordan because of its relations with Iraq, or is it only doing this to satisfy the groups who live to harm the nation and those who arrogantly insist on doing so?

If Jordan is targeted for its relations with Iraq, then we are with Iraq because we are Arabs like the Iraqis and because we know the meaning of their hunger, their need for medicine and books, and their basic needs as a people who, 6,000 years ago, were the founders of civilization and science. However, if Jordan is targeted only to satisfy the hatred of the shaykhs in order to rob them of what is left of their money, then it suffices to say that those shaykhs cannot by themselves harm even a Jordanian child. Washington will have the honor of playing the role of a hired assassin.

We in Jordan, are not powerless although some of us like to be so and want Jordan to be like them. We in Jordan, are not powerless, and this blatant armed aggression against our country requires an answer. Our answer should be a protest that is harmful to U.S. interests. Nothing should prevent adopting a position on the peace negotiations. These negotiations are a U.S. interest and Jordan should not fulfill that interest if the United States is harming our legitimate interests represented in innocent shipping on the high seas, as they call it.

Nothing is forcing us to go to Washington. Rome is closer. Nothing is forcing us to yield to a military action against us in the Gulf of Aqaba or to accept the so-called peace efforts the United States claims to be undertaking.

Shall we say no once and see what happens ...?!

'Political Revenge' Seen

JN0408104092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Aug 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Provocative Measures Against al-'Aqabah Port"]

[Text] The provocative measures that Western warships continue to impose on commercial ships heading for al-'Aqabah port constitute an ongoing siege which the Western allied countries have been imposing against Jordan since the eruption of the Gulf crisis nearly two years ago.

Although Jordan has committed itself to the UN trade sanctions against Iraq—in spite of the injustice they present to the brotherly Iraqi people—the allied countries ignored that, with strong insistence and intransigence, and continued this form of siege which inflicted more economic difficulties on us and caused tens of millions of dollars in losses to our national economy.

We have no doubt that these measures that the Western warships are taking against trade in al-'Aqabah port is a form of political revenge for the position adopted by Jordan when the Gulf crisis broke out. Jordan has called for keeping away from military action and called for a peaceful solution within an Arab framework.

The media campaigns against Jordan and its policies launched by some Western circles and also in some Gulf capitals are but a way to provide baseless pretexts in order to continue a siege that has lost any of its justification after Western reporters and diplomats testified that Jordan is fully committed to UN resolutions relating to the imposition of the trade siege on the Jordanian border with Iraq.

The recent talk about Western demands to deploy international observers on our land border with Iraq was an escalation in employing pressure on a country that preserved its mind and the conscience of its people during the crisis and refused to join the military alliance. Later, this country continued to call for turning this black page from the nation's life and for restoring unity and cohesion to the Arab fold.

Hence, we call for lifting the unjust siege that the West is imposing against a small country. We also call for an immediate halt to such provocative measures toward a UN member state that committed itself to the UN resolutions, implemented the principles of UN Charter toward all issues, and participated and is participating in the peace keeping forces which the international organization formed in several world countries.

Israel Curtails Number of West Bank Crossings

JN0208184192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] 'Adil Irshid, director of the [Foreign Ministry's] Palestinian Affairs Department, held a press conference to discuss recent Israeli measures affecting those seeking to travel to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Our correspondent, Shakir Maharimah, filed the following report:

[Begin video recording] [Maharimah] 'Adil Irshid, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department, has affirmed that the government, through its concerned agencies, is doing its utmost to ease the suffering of those seeking to cross to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, Israeli authorities have reduced the number of those allowed the cross to 1,750 daily, and only 500 people on Fridays. In past years, 4,000 persons were allowed to cross daily, except for Friday, when half has many were allowed to cross. As a result, there were considerable delays in June, affecting some 54,000 people. During the first of half of July, 2,500 persons were allowed to cross to the West Bank daily. During the second half of July, the number was raised to 3,000 persons, including children, special humanitarian cases, and Red Cross telegrams. This resulted in considerable delays and long reservation periods, sometimes as long as 40 days.

[Irshid] On 31 July, the Jordanian Government, through its competent agencies, laid down a new schedule aimed at easing the suffering of those seeking to cross to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to enable them to spend their vacations in the West Bank. This schedule was outlined on Friday [31 July], and was to go into effect on Sunday, 2 August. However, we were surprised to learn that as of Monday, Israeli authorities had limited the number of crossings to 1,000 people. This has created a new situation that obstructs the schedule currently in effect and prolongs the suffering of those seeking to travel to the West Bank. This measure is a continuation of the main reason for which the Israeli authorities reduced the number at the beginning of this season. For our part, competent authorities have done their utmost to ease the suffering of those trying to cross the bridge. [cut shot]

[Maharimah] Regarding measures that will be taken tomorrow to make it easier for travelers to cross within the ceiling of 1,000 people, Irshid said: [cut shot]

[Irshid] Tomorrow, we will start with those carrying permits about to expire. Next will come humanitarian cases compelling travel to the West Bank, followed by children, women, the elderly, and then the rest of those who have reservations. [end recording]

3,000 To Cross 4 Aug

JN0408080192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] South al-Shunah (J.T.)—Travellers across the King Husayn Bridge on the River Jordan will be allowed to cross into the West Bank at the rate of 3,000 a day starting (Tuesday) [4 August], according to a Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department announcement.

The Israelis who control the passage of Palestinian visitors to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip announced on Monday that only 1,000 people were to be allowed to pass, claiming that the bridge was undergoing maintenance work.

Meanwhile a group of Lower House of Parliament members Monday paid a visit to the King Husayn Bridge to study the situation there following Israeli measures to delay the crossing of Palestinian travellers to the occupied territories.

The deputies, members of the House's Palestine affairs committee, met with travellers and Jordanian government officials. They were briefed on the situation and the procedures for crossing.

The visit of Bassam Haddadin, Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz and Muhammad al-Haj followed reports that

Israel was drastically reducing the number of Arabs allowed to cross into the occupied territories.

'Adil Irshid, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, apealed to the World Community to intercede with Israel to ease the human suffering resulting from Israel's actions. Mr. Irshid said Israel has not been abiding by an agreed summer quota that allows more than 22,000 people to cross the bridge heading to the West Bank weekly.

Following the inspection, Mr. Haddadin said that the deputies' call at the bridge was to examine first hand the situation. After touring various sections of the bridge, station and terminal, he said that the Jordanian officials were trying their best to offer all possible services to those arriving in Jordan or travelling to the West Bank.

He condemned Israel's delay as arbitrary measures that can only cause suffering to the Palestinian people.

In 1990, Jordan and Israel agreed through the U.N. Truce Committee to allow up to 4,000 people daily for five days a week with an additional 2,000 to cross on Fridays.

The quota was limited to the summer season starting May 15 until Sept. 1, when bridge traffic usually is swollen by visitors to the West Bank.

Officials Deny Jordanian Executed in Iraq

JN0308092292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian officials Sunday denied that any Jordanian businessman was executed in Iraq as part of a campaign against profiteers. The officials were commenting on rumours that two Jordanians were among those executed.

Executions Halt Supplies

JN0408072792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 92 p 1

[By Rana Sabbagh, REUTERS]

[Text] Amman—Iraqi traders, terrorised by Baghdad's execution of 42 merchants, have halted almost all shipments of supplies to their country, Jordanian businessmen said Sunday.

Traffic in Jordan's al-Zarqa' Duty Free Zone, source of a huge portion of the supplies of food and other humanitarian goods Iraq is allowed under U.N. sanctions, has almost come to a standstill.

Only a trickle of Iraq-bound trucks are leaving through the desert zone's iron-gates, compared to a daily average of 150, traders say.

"For the past 10 days, hardly any Iraqi trader sent anything to his country from our warehouse," said one Jordanian exporter, who until last week was sending up to 30 trucks of sugar and rice to Iraq each day.

"They (merchants) tell us even if the goods are given to them for free they are not ready to risk their lives and be executed or detained," he told Reuters. "This has dealt a deadly blow to our business and might lead to food shortages in Iraq."

Iraq, squeezed by almost two years of U.N. trade sanctions, is cracking down on merchants it accuses of profiteering.

It has executed 42 traders by firing squad and jailed or detained more than 500 since July 25 in moves ordered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Baghdad-based diplomats said.

Several of those executed came from prominent families and the contents of their warehouses and businesses had been comfiscated by the state, the diplomats added.

They said Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials privately confirmed the numbers arrested and executed.

"The news has shattered, terrorised, demoralised and depressed all my Iraqi clients because accusations were not true," added another trader who works out of the al-Zarqa' Duty Free Zone. "They feel they were victims of Saddam's whims."

The two Jordanian traders said they attended sessions of mourning held in Amman by the family of executed trader Ra'd Tabarah, a leading businessman from the Mal-Allah family because Iraq banned their relatives from publicly mourning the dead.

Many of their Iraqi customers had told them they were reluctant to return to Baghdad and some had even told family members there to flee for fear of reprisals, they added.

Many Iraqi merchants and their families had arrived in Amman to spend their summer vacation when the news broke out.

Iraq has been in the grip of a U.N. trade blockade since shortly after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi officials justify the toughest campaign against profiteers since the sanctions were imposed by saying it is essential to fee people at fair prices.

But Jordanian and some Iraqi merchants based in Amman contest this. "Saddam is looking for scapegoats because of the soaring prices in Iraq caused by the weak dinar and the sanctions," one Jordanian said.

Pro-Iraq Rally, Sit-In Reported in Irbid

'Unjust Siege' Denounced

JN0408104892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 92 pp 1, 16

[Text] Irbid—At the invitation of the Professional Union Complex in Irbid a cultural rally was held on Sunday evening in solidarity with sisterly Iraq. The rally was attended by a large crowd of citizens and popular sectors in Irbid Governorate.

The audience staged a one-hour sit-in to protest the continuation of the unjust siege on Iraq and to denounce the U.S. policy and the escalation aimed at launching a new aggression against Iraq.

A speech rally followed in which Dr. Hani al-Gharayibah delivered the speech of the Professional Union Complex, Ibrahim al-Batayinah delivered the speech of the Arab Democratic Grouping in Irbid Governorate, lawyer Salim al-Qudah delivered the speech of the popular committee for the support of Iraq, and Shaykh Hasan 'Abd-al- Latif delivered another speech.

The speakers stressed the support of the masses of Irbid Governorate for sisterly Iraq—its people, and leadership—in their manly and honorable stand in face of the aggressors. They expressed their denunciation of the U.S. escalation which prepares for launching a new aggression against Iraq and their condemnation of the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf.

The speakers called on the Arab regimes to lift the Arab and international siege on the Iraqi people.

At the end of the rally, the audience sent a cable of support to His Majesty King Husayn hailing his position during the Gulf war and the Jordanian rejection of the presence of international inspectors on the Jordanian territory.

Committee Cables Saddam

JN0308150592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Amman, 3 Aug (INA)—The masses of Irbid Governorate in northern Jordan have renewed their solid, principled support for great Iraq in its confrontation of schemes targeting its people and historic leadership.

In a cable addressed to [Iraqi] President Saddam Husayn at the conclusion of a rally in support of Iraq, held by the popular committee for the support of Iraq in Irbid on the anniversary of the great Day of the Call [2 August, when Iraq invaded Kuwait], the masses asserted that Iraq was the gateway to victory for the Arab nation and the future of its sons.

The cable also asserted that Iraq represented an impregnable base for the defense of the rights of the nation and the poor of the Arabs, as well as humanity at large.

The popular committee for the support of Iraq in Irbid organized a rally in solidarity with the people of Iraq on the second anniversary of the great Day of the Call.

At the outset of the rally, which was held at the Professional Unions Complex, Salim al-Qudah, the committee's secretary, delivered a speech in which he asserted that unyielding Iraq was still facing a great conspiracy being implemented by the forces of evil and darkness under the leadership of criminal Bush, with the participation of some traitorous Arab rulers.

Salim al-Qudah called on the Arabs who supported Iraq during the Atlantic aggression to turn their voices into an effective, organized action that confirms their credibility. He also affirmed that the Mother of Battles was still continuing and will end only when a decisive victory is achieved.

Afterward, Ibrahim al-Batayinah delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Democratic Grouping in the governorate, in which he hailed the second anniversary of the great Day of the Call, saying that that day showed the possibility of removing borders and ending the partition.

He also called on all free men in the Arab homeland to work to break the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The masses of the Irbid Governorate had earlier staged a sit-in in solidarity with the people of Iraq who are facing an unjust economic blockade and U.S. conspiracies targeting their sovereignty, independence, and very existence.

Al-Tafilah Residents Urge End to 'Siege' on Iraq

JN0308101892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] A number of al-Tafilah Governorate's sons in Amman have strongly denounced the continued unjust siege that U.S. imperialism is imposing on the sisterly Iraqi people.

In a statement distributed on Saturday during their sit-in in front of UN headquarters in Amman, al-Tafilah's sons urged the UN secretary general to immediately interfere to end the siege and stop the U.S. mass killing of elderly, women, and children of Iraq through this illegitimate and inhuman siege. They condemned the continuing U.S. attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of sisterly Iraq and also to blackmail our dear Jordan.

In their statement, the protesters asked the UN secretary general to adopt a firm position in order to stop the deportation policy followed against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories by the Zionist enemy which is backed by the United States.

Al-Sulh Returns From Election Talks in Syria

NC0308173192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh returned from Damascus this afternoon following talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' about the election issue.

Al-Sulh on 'Successful' Talks in Paris

NC3107191992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh returned to Beirut at 1700 today, following a four-day visit to Paris. [passage omitted]

In a departure statement in Paris, al-Sulh said: [Begin recording] The visit was at the invitation of the French Government. We met in Paris with various French officials. I met His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand. My colleagues and I met the French prime minister two or three times. We also met with relevant ministers. [passage omitted]

The French Government promised to support Lebanon's demand for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, which means the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces.

The French Government also promised to support Lebanon and other Arab countries in the talks, which will be held soon, aiming to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 about the Palestinian issue, which covers the political aspect.

Regarding the military aspect, the French Government promised to send a mission to Lebanon immediately to look into the needs of the Lebanese Army, gendarmerie, and police force with a view to helping and strengthening them and mending the existing flaws in certain services.

The third very crucial issue is that of finance. The Lebanese delegation successfully concluded an agreement with the French Government to reschedule Lebanon's debts to France. France agreed to write off a segment of the debts, provide some financial grants to Lebanon, and postpone loan payment dates. In sum, the Lebanese delegation fully succeeded in its talks with France. We thank France for that and hope that this success will help Lebanon put its finances in order and get back on its feet. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, al-Sulh described the visit as successful, saying that France promised to assist Lebanon and support its demand for implementing Resolution 425 and the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon.

Answering a question about Minister Walid Junblatt's suspension of Cabinet membership and the resignation of Minister Marwan Hamadah, al-Sulh said: I will try to resolve this issue. I hope that we will reach solutions that are satisfactory to all and end the crisis. [passage omitted]

Buwayz—France, U.S. Not Opposed to Elections

NC0208110492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that France does not appear opposed to elections in Lebanon, provided they are conducted with freedom, democracy, and justice. We have not perceived any reservations, but we have been advised to observe election standards and freedoms, he said. The French believe dispatching international observers to monitor the elections is unnecessary, he added.

About the U.S. position concerning the elections, Buwayz told the Voice of Lebanon that the Americans were not enthusiastic but did not reject the elections if the Lebanese Government insisted on them. There is no major opposition to the elections, he said.

* Buwayz on Baker Meeting, Syrian Troops, South

92AE0554A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by 'Ali Hammadah in Paris; date not given: "Our Position on Resistance Does Not Agree With Washington's; Rabin Has Shown No Positiveness Toward UN Resolutions"]

[Text] Minister Buwayz spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the three main issues that occupy Lebanon today: the Lebanese elections, the redeployment of Syrian forces, and the peace talks.

The following is the text of the interview:

[Hammadah] What happened during the meeting that brought together American Secretary of State James Baker and the pillars of the Lebanese Government in Zahlah a week ago?

[Buwayz] The talks focused on three subjects: the elections scheduled in Lebanon, the redeployment of Syrian forces, and the issue of peace negotiations in the region.

Regarding elections, Secretary Baker began by saying that the election decision was an internal Lebanese decision that pertains to the legitimate government and the Lebanese people. However, he held that for the elections to be sound, just, and genuine, a number of conditions must be present in them—conditions which may not have been fulfilled as yet. He then noted that there is some opposition to these elections. He said that the size of the opposition could impair the credibility of the elections. Finally, he proposed a number of measures that might make the international community give the necessary credibility to these elections, if that is necessary. One of the suggestions was the subject of international observers.

In general, we can say that Secretary Baker did not show great enthusiasm for the elections. Yet the keynote remained that the elections are Lebanese business and that his remarks came merely as advice, nothing else.

Naturally, the president and prime minister had another point of view, focusing on the mustering of new forces after the war and the need to generate new balances in parliament

and political groupings to enable future governments to work more effectively. Their commentary focused on these points.

[Hammadah] On the question of repositioning Syrian forces, where is the difference between the Syrian-Lebanese reading and the American one?

[Buwayz] I think the American view on the subject of repositikoning is based on the al-Ta'if agreement and their interpretation, which is that the repositioning should be timed for the end of this summer. The Syrian reading is not far away from the content, but the form is different. I informed Baker that a wish has been heard from the Syrian leadership to reposition as soon as possible, regardless of the letter and content of the al-Ta'if agreement, which, according to the Syrian interpretation, implies a different context. As for the Lebanese reading, the cabinet has made no final decision about the subject, but there is an atmosphere in the cabinet and the Lebanese Government that eagerly wishes to spread the government's authority through its own resources as quickly as possible. It will therefore hasten the steps and measures that will tend to increase the ability of the Lebanese Army to fully assume its responsibilities. The Lebanese Government delegation's visit to France becomes important in this context, especially in its military aspect and with regard to equipping the Lebanese Army to enable it to assume its responsibilities.

[Hammadah] Objectively, is the Lebanese Army able to take over security instead of the Syrian forces, if the latter are redeployed in accordance with the American reading?

[Buwayz] I think that security in Lebanon is political security before it is technical security. I think that if there really is an agreed decision that gets the support of friends, especially Syria, the government in that case has the ability to take over security. But if there is no political readiness for the matter, an army composed of 100,000 soldiers cannot extend the government's authority. I expect that the political climate will be suitable for implementing this resolution and these directives.

There remains the third part of the talks with Baker, the negotiations. A number of technical points have come up within the scope of the peace negotiations, and these give the countries calling for the conference or its two sponsors an active role in assessment and marketing. Thus, when we were invited to Rome, we as Arab states stuck to retaining Washington as the site of the negotiations, but we were informed of an American desire to distance the negotiations from Washington in view of the atmosphere prevailing between the American administration and the past Israeli Government. Today, however, it seems that the American side, perhaps on the basis of the new relations, wants to host the negotiations in Washington. We basically have been on Washington's side. The objective does not contradict our basic proposal, and so we have no objection, though we have received no official invitation from Washington.

The reason for moving the negotiations to Washington may be based first on the return of normal relations between the American Government and the Israeli Government, next on going along with the fundamental Arab desire to hold the talks in Washington, and finally on applying the logic of the letters of assurance and invitation, which talk about a propelling and active role for United States in the peace process. The United States may be able to play a more effective role if the negotiations take place in Washington.

In addition, there are domestic American considerations that give rise to optimism about achieving progress in the period preceding the American presidential elections, thereby winning points for President Bush and his administration.

[Hammadah] On this point, is there any American shift on the subject of the south and on Resolution 425, by virtue of which Washington is asking Beirut to disarm the resistance in order to persuade Israel to implement the resolution?

[Buwayz] There is still a difference between Lebanon and the United States on this subject, albeit not about content, but only about procedure. We consider what is happening in the south a result of the Israeli occupation, not the cause of it. The occupation preceded what is happening in the south, not vice versa; so the solution to the problem of the south lies first in an Israeli withdrawal, and then security will stabilize there. The American side, on the other hand, believes that security and stability in the south form the precondition for solving the problem. We will not ask any Lebanese citizen to accept the occupation and put down his weapons as long as we do not have in our hands effective basic guarantees and an unequivocal public promise from Israel to withdraw fully and completely from the south.

[Hammadah] Could one not begin by eliminating Israel's pretext—in other words, extending the government's authority and removing irregular arms?

[Buwayz] Yes, we could do that. It will take place when the Lebanese Government has an American and Israeli commitment to withdraw from the south. We then shall be in a stronger position to convince Lebanese citizens to discontinue the operations taking place there. However, if the position of the Lebanese Government is not strengthened and the Lebanese people remain convinced that there is no hope for regaining occupied Lebanese lands by political and diplomatic means, no one can convince southern citizens to stop their armed rejection of the occupation.

[Hammadah] But we know that external regional considerations control the decision making, arms, and destiny of the resistance.

[Buwayz] Perhaps. But if an explicit American and Israeli promise emerges, all the pretexts that make any group clash with the Israelis in the south will collapse. Then we shall see who is the obstructionist.

[Hammadah] If the Americans are in a hurry and the Israelis' image has improved internationally, pressure will increase to isolate the Palestinian negotiator and achieve something on this issue, while leaving the other issues (the Golan and the south) until after the elections. This might fragment the Arab position and open the door to dangerous

proposals, such as implantation [of Palestinians as permanent residents or citizens] in Lebanon. What is your opinion?

[Buwayz] First, with regard to the Arab side, we hold to the literal wording of the letters of assurance that the American administration defined and on whose basis we agreed to participate in the peace conference. These letters do not talk about implantation, but about the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. When we entered the peace talks, we did not do so haphazardly. These principles were the result of our continued talks with Secretary Baker and were based on a comprehensive peace, not on isolating any Arab party. This subject has caused us to remain convinced that peace can only be comprehensive. Any attempt to isolate any of the parties will make the party that accepts such isolation suspect. It will make the isolated party take negative positions, and this is what we do not want.

On the other hand, we believe that the Arab states and organizations cannot lend covering to a peace resolution unless they show solidarity among themselves. I think the peace resolution is so great, historic, and basic that no party can cover it by himself. Therefore, either the peace will be comprehensive, or it will not come to pass. Any attempt to isolate a party from the Arab body will torpedo the entire conference and the whole peace process. This is what we stressed at the meeting of Arab foreign ministers involved in the bilateral talks in Beirut, Amman, and Damascus. I think the Arab parties realize these truths. I think that a number of parties who were too enthusiastic in the beginning and prematurely anticipated certain stages have returned to the belief that solidarity is necessary. We have been acknowledged to have been right when we warned about isolation or going it alone. We now have succeeded at the periodic meetings in securing very advanced solidarity. The content of the meetings now being held is marked by a very high and advanced degree of mutual understanding and a high level of skill in dealing with the peace proposal. Whoever reads the final communique that emerged from the Damascus meeting will notice that it contains a precise, new path.

[Hammadah] What about your assessment of the new Israeli Government?

[Buwayz] We are wary of the prevailing belief in the international community concerning the positiveness of the new government, a positiveness to which it has given no expression yet in any area—either in agreeing to implement UN Resolutions 242, 338, or even 425, or in accepting the principle of land for peace, or in acknowledging the political rights of the Palestinian people. It is still talking vaguely about peace. It is talking only about self-rule for the Palestinians, which may mean no more than a certain administrative control of very circumscribed matters. So we believe that the international community must deal very carefully with the subject. We think the American Government should not hurry to agree with the Israeli Government on the question of loan guarantees and other subjects before Israel commits itself to all the keynotes and ideas of the peace process. We are afraid that this government now may be showing positiveness only in order to obtain the loan guarantees and that when it gets them, it will not continue to agree to the demands of legitimate international authority. Before any step is taken, this government must make clear and explicit decisions on the subject we have already raised.

Syrian President—No Interference in Elections

NC0408093992 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 19 Jul 92 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] AL-DIYAR has learned from reliable and high-level sources that after the statement President Hafiz al-Asad reportedly made, affirming that Syria will not interfere in the election even if its rivals win, orders have been issued to Syrian officials not to have any contact with the Lebanese candidates—to prevent candidates trying to exploit their friendship or relationship in the Lebanese parliamentary election. The sources also told AL-DIYAR that President al-Asad will let no one blemish Syria's credibility in Lebanon. He guaranteed to President al-Hirawi that no one will interfere in the elections, on which there is no room for error.

Observers expect meetings between Lebanese candidates and Syrian officials to stop. It is not true that Syria will compile lists or pressure anyone to include certain names. Any official who has any such contacts will be held responsible. The role of the Syrian forces and organizations will be to support the Lebanese authorities in providing security and ensuring the fairness of elections, away from intervention and pressure from any side.

The reliable source told AL-DIYAR that after the higher Syrian directives, the ball is now in the Lebanese candidates' court. Any Lebanese candidate will be harming his reputation if he tries to exploit his relations with Damascus for the elections. We should pay attention to newspaper reports and its becoming clear that meetings will be stopped or canceled following the Syrian directives on intervention. Activities will be restricted to meetings among the various groups in Lebanon to form election lists away from foreign intervention.

Observers believe that with the start of the Lebanese-Syrian summit, elections entered a new phase. Summit statements by President al-Asad constituted a new launch pad in Lebanese political life, President al-Asad clearly and decisively affirming that Syria will not interfere even if its rivals win. Such talk is as clear as can be and comes from the highest level in the form of a directive to the Lebanese parties not to try to exploit any relationship they have with Damascus or with Syrian officials in Lebanon.

Practically speaking, the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud will assume the task of supervising elections, particularly now that the defense minister has handed part of his privileges to the Army commander to rise above any talk of abuse of power in elections.

AL-DIYAR has learned that the Lebanese Army will not let any party interfere in elections. The Army will continue to stay out of politics, while the Army command will provide

all the guarantees and measures to ensure that elections are fair and that there is no political exploitation. [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Ministry Pays Visit 31 Jul

NC3107120592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with today a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation, led by Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Foreign Ministry's department of Middle Eastern and African affairs, accompanied by Russian Minister (Nikolay Kakosov). The delegation will also meet with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas.

After the meeting, Posuvalyuk said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the peace process. He stressed Russia's firm position on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 and all UN resolutions. He denied reports about a diminished Russian role following the Soviet Union's dissolution.

Israelis Continue Operations in Southern Areas

Helicopters Execute Raid on Towns

NC0308165492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1618 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Israeli helicopters executed a raid against Jabal Safi hills, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Mlita at 1645 today, which is the second raid on the area in less than four hours.

REUTER cited security sources as saying that the first Israeli raid today targeted Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah, leaving two Hizballah members wounded. The sources said that during the first raid, at 1320 today, two Israeli aircraft fired 10 rockets at Hizballah positions in 'Arab Salim and Mlita.

Village Under Artillery Bombardment

NC0408122292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported a short time ago that al-Wazzani area in Jabal al-Rayhan and the village of al-Luwayzah are coming under intermittent 155-mm artillery bombardment from Israeli Forces' positions in al-Zaffatah.

Samahah Says No Amendments to Election Law

NC0208062592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah said that the election law will not be amended. In a radio interview, he said opponents can become deputies and still remain in the opposition. He added that the Americans have not given the red light [as heard] for the elections and we have not waited for the green light.

Samahah said the state repossessed its property as part of the plan to reestablish its authority. He emphasized the need to organize the media based on freedom and cooperation between the public and private media. He said election campaigns must be conducted lawfully.

Phalangist Party Delays Decision on Elections

NC0308193492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Phalangist Party met this afternoon under party leader Dr. George Sa'adah to discuss the issues of parliamentary elections and the return to Lebanon of former President Amin al-Jumayyil. Sa'adah said that today's Political Bureau meeting was going to adopt a decision about the elections issue but had to delay the decision, because it needed to carry out more contacts before making a final decision. He described yesterday's meeting with al-Jumayyil as cordial and good.

The Phalangist Party Political Bureau did not issue a statement at the conclusion of its meeting at 1945 today. The bureau asked deputy party leader Munir al-Haj and Secretary General Karim Paqraduni to participate in the Bkirki [seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] meeting.

Maronite ministers and deputies and representatives of some parties began arriving at Bkirki this evening to adopt a position about the parliamentary elections.

PSP's Junblatt, Hizballah's Nasrallah Meet 4 Aug

NC0408070792 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt and Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah discussed current developments at a meeting last night. PSP Deputy leader Durayd Yaghi, Hizballah Political Bureau head al-Haj Husayn Khalil, and Hizballah Political Bureau member Muhammad al-Khansa attended.

Junblatt commented: The meeting was held with the usual coordination between us as a progressive socialist party and Hizballah, especially in light of successive developments and the elections, which have several stages. Consultation and coordination are required because negotiations are to be resumed in the region for what is termed a settlement with the Israeli enemy.

About whether there is a plan for alliance with other Lebanese forces, Junblatt said: We have no conditions. I hope there will be a national Islamic alliance in Lebanon, which is a guarantee for Lebanon's future and for the liberation of the south.

Junblatt warned of increasing Israeli aggressions and said: The Israeli-Zionist aggressions that aim to pressure the struggling people of the south and the Lebanese state's resolution will not stop.

About the suspension of the strike in the Mountain, he said: We have been promised that a settlement will be effected at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. It is astonishing that the Army moved on certain orders; we were about to clash with it. So far we do not know who is responsible. We do not seek confrontation with the Army, but the responsibility should be defined.

Junblatt asked who ordered the Army to move at that moment and noted that the aim of moving the Army was to cause sedition.

He said: I do not want to blame anyone. This Army has just emerged from a civil war and is still green. National and Arab guidance has not been enough. The Army must not be used by fly-by-night opportunists. [khafafish al-layl, literally bats in the night]

Further on al-Jumayyil's Return to Lebanon

Cited on Cooperation With Syria

NC0208064892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] In an interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper published today, former President Amin al-Jumayyil said there is room for positive cooperation between Lebanon and Syria on bases that guarantee mutual respect, national interests, independence, and sovereignty. He said he has not returned to settle accounts. He said that he recognizes the al-Ta'if accord, but he called on others to admit that there are certain holes in the accord.

Denies Statements on Phalangist Party

NC0208155292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Former President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned this morning Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah and denied a report published by AL-DIYAR today concerning al-Jumayyil's position toward the Phalangist Party's leadership and legitimacy.

A party political bureau delegation will extend congratulations to former President Amin al-Jumayyil this evening on his return to Lebanon.

'Not at All Interested' in Elections

NC0308073892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Former President Amin al-Jumayyil said he is not at all interested in the elections, denying that he will put up an election platform [yushakkil la'ihah intikhabiyah] in al-Matn. Al-Jumayyil said: This is the same old tactic of casting aspersions on others.

On whether he will appear in court to give evidence on the passports scandal and the bankruptcy of Intra Company, al-Jumayyil said: I will raise this issue at the appropriate moment to answer the vicious rumors.

Answering the Phalangist source who commented about his return, al-Jumayyil said: I wish he had identified himself. I do not know whether the Phalangist Political Bureau and Central Committee approved the statement. The former president said he does not want to get involved in bickering; he came back to unite the ranks and promote an atmosphere of reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Al-Jumayyil added: I may have erred in the past. This is not a time for reckoning. Once Lebanon regains its stability and the law its clout, there will be time to look at accountability.

Former President al-Jumayyil yesterday met with a Phalangist delegation at his home in Sinn al-Fil. Afterward, he said: Everything is fine. It is best not to go into details for now.

Interviewed on Elections

NC0308135092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Interview with former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by Josephine Yazbik at al-Jumayyil's house in Beirut on 3 August—recorded]

[Text] [Yazbik] It is said that there currently are two trends in the Political Bureau of the Phalangist Party: one for and one against the elections. How can a unified position be achieved? Are you going to try to listen to all sides in the party?

[Al-Jumayyil] This is a dilemma [preceding word in English] and a source of national bewilderment. All Lebanese are now concerned, because there is a rush. They wonder why the rush since things are not mature. Some are fighting the election. If elections are held in such a climate, there will be a major wound in Lebanese society, and we return to the undesirable atmosphere we experienced in past years, which is the dilemma one finds at all levels. There are, of course, two trends within the Phalangist Party. We are supposed to make a decision that serves the national interest and helps the party restore its vanguard role. This is our obsession, but ultimately, a decision must be made, and it will appear in the coming two days. We cannot delay it any longer. We hope God will inspire everyone so that the decision can pave the way for a new accord and a positive and constructive stage, not for further fragmentation and rifts.

[Yazbik] It is said the Phalangist Party will delay a final decision on the elections until after the results of the Bkirki meeting are known. There were reports to the contrary. What do you think is the right position for the Phalangist Party to adopt today?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am not a Political Bureau member and therefore cannot tell you what is going to happen. We should not waste time discussing what comes first, the chicken or the egg, and who will make the decision first. There must be certain convictions. The Phalangist Party is supposed to play a pioneering role and to shoulder its responsibility. We always have made decisions that served the public interests, and the people supported us because they trusted us. We hope the Phalangist Party will, as before, make the decision that is dictated by its conscience. When it does this, it will have determined a clear position; the public will make a judgment. But I hope the party will make only the decision that reflects the conscience of the nation and satisfies the people's expectations.

[Yazbik] If the Political Bureau decides to participate in the elections, what will your position be?

[Al-Jumayyil] It is premature to comment about this. We are now seeking a conciliatory decision.

Background Given on al-Jumayyil Return

*NC0308094692 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
1 Aug pp 1, 10*

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-NAHAR learned that [former secretary general of the Foreign Ministry] Faruq Abu-al-Lam' is the one who persuaded former President Amin al-Jumayyil to return to Beirut, telling him that Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja', Ja'ja's followers, as well as the followers of [former Army commander] General Michel 'Awn are ready for political action but lack a Christian "leader" to rally behind. Al-Jumayyil, it seems, followed the advice of his friend Abu-al-Lam', who is also close to Gen. 'Awn.

Since his return, al-Jumayyil has drawn interest from the media and several officials who visited him at his home. The flurry of interest may complicate the polarization in the Christian camp.

Currently, the Phalangist Party is vague in its position about the elections. The party issued a statement on 31 July differentiating between the elections law and the electoral process but failing to define a policy on the latter. This failure can be the chink in the armor that al-Jumayyil may be looking for as he tries to reshuffle the Phalangist deck. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Invited to Nonaligned Movement Summit

*NC0208085592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 2 Aug 92*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with Indonesian President Suharto's special envoy yesterday. The envoy delivered an invitation to attend the Nonaligned Movement summit scheduled to be held in Indonesia in September.

The Indonesian envoy said: Several events have occurred in the world. In view of these events and developments, the Nonaligned bloc must hold this meeting, which we consider very important. He indicated that his country, which will preside over the coming session, asked the member states to make suggestions about infusing new life and blood into the Nonaligned Movement.

Communique Issued on Talks With Turkey's Cetin

JN0308121592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Joint communique issued in Damascus and Ankara on 3 August at the end of the talks between Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Syrian officials during his 1-3 August visit to Damascus—read by announcer]

[Text] At the invitation of Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR], Hikmet Cetin, foreign minister of the Republic of Turkey, paid an official visit to the SAR between 1 and 3 August 1992.

SAR President Hafiz al-Asad met with the guest minister, who conveyed to his excellency a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal renewing the invitation to his excellency to visit the Republic of Turkey.

The talks were held between the Arab Syrian side and the Turkish side in an atmosphere permeated with a spirit of friendship, cordiality, and cooperation.

Both sides reviewed bilateral neighborly relations and expressed their happiness at the progress of these relations and the positive steps that have been achieved. They stressed the need to reinforce and develop these relations in light of historical relations, good neighborliness, and the interests of both friendly peoples.

The two sides' viewpoints were in agreement on all the issues that were discussed within the framework of both countries' political will.

Talks dealt with the recent comments made about the water issue—comments that were confirmed to be false. The two sides reiterated their adherence to the joint economic and technical cooperation protocol signed in Damascus on 17 August 1987, particularly regarding water, and the Turkish side's commitment to releasing more than 500 cubic meters of Euphrates water to Syria. Within this framework, Turkey reiterated its principled stand, which calls for not encroaching on neighboring countries' water rights. The two sides also agreed on resuming the meetings of the joint technical committee next September in Damascus.

The two sides expressed their commitment to the 1987 security cooperation protocol and the contents of the minutes signed during the 14-17 April visit to Syria by Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin which will contribute to developing bilateral relations in the interest of their people's interests.

Within this framework, the Syrian side stressed its respect for its commitments and affirmed that it will continue with this stand. It called on the Turkish side not to listen to anything that contradicts this.

The two sides believe that the coming visit to Turkey by the Syrian interior minister will deepen security cooperation between the two countries.

They asserted the importance of continuing their bilateral contacts, consultations, and meetings on all levels in the interest of the two friendly peoples and countries. In light of this, the two sides have agreed on the following:

— An annual exchange of visits between the two foreign ministers and between the assistant ministers biannually or as necessitated by circumstances.
— A quarterly exchange of visits or contacts between security officers of the two countries.
— Developing and deepening relations in the areas of economics, trade, culture, media, technical affairs, science, and health, as well as tightening cooperation in transport and facilitating the crossing of cattle according to regulations already in force.
— Convening a third session of the joint economic Syrian- Turkish commission as soon as possible.
— The importance of bilateral cooperation in the fight against narcotics.
— Pursuing the opening of Syrian and Turkish cultural centers in Ankara and Damascus.
— Implementing the media protocol signed by the two countries and the appointment of representatives for the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY in Ankara and the TURKISH NEWS AGENCY in Damascus.

[Text] After reviewing regional and international issues of common concern, the two sides voiced support for efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, and recognizing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The two sides expressed hope that the next round of Middle East peace talks will achieve substantive and tangible progress to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

The two sides also condemned repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and called for implementing Resolution 425 stipulating unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The two sides condemned arbitrary Israeli practices against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon, as well as the blatant violations of international law and human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention, demanding an end to these violations.

The two sides, moreover, asserted their desire to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, primarily nuclear weapons.

The two sides hoped that the talks initiated by the UN secretary general with the leaders of the two communities to achieve a just, comprehensive solution to the Cypriot question would succeed, noting that this solution should take into consideration the interests of the two communities and should be accepted by both.

The two sides noted the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Proceeding from the resolutions issued by international bodies, primarily the United Nations and the Security Council, which have failed to stop the Serbian attacks, the two sides stressed the need for the Security

Council to take more effective measures to end the attacks and restore the unity and independence of Bosnia- Hercegovina.

The two sides also expressed their desire to see the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Karabakh region resolved peacefully, in a manner that guarantees the safety, security, and territorial integrity of the two states.

The Turkish side expressed its thanks and gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to it during its visit to Syria. Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin also invited Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to visit Turkey, and al-Shar' accepted the invitation on the provision that a date is set later.

Khaddam Meets With Lebanese Prime Minister 4 Aug

JN0408104592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh at noon yesterday. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the Lebanese arena, especially regarding Lebanese parliamentary elections, the results of Rashid al-Sulh's Paris visit, and the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region.

Talas Visits Combat Formations in Lebanon 3 Aug

JN0308202692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] At the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and on the anniversary of the Syrian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister at noon today visited one of our combat formations in Lebanon.

The commander of the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon, the commander of the formation, and formation officers and fighters were present to welcome the deputy commander in chief upon his arrival. Lt. Gen. Talas was accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, the deputy chief of staff.

Lt. Gen. Talas delivered a speech at the onset of which he conveyed President Leader Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the brother fighters and his wishes for them to succeed in their pan-Arab mission which reaffirms the historic message of our ideological army.

In his speech, Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas reviewed the militant meanings of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's message to his brothers and sons in the Armed Forces marking 1 August, in which he affirmed his pride in the positions and sacrifices of our heroic Army by saying: You have always been, wherever you may have been, supporters of right against falsehood, and justice against injustice. This was your position when you performed your fraternal mission in Lebanon, and before it on the Golan, Mount Hermon, and during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In his speech, Lt. Gen. Talas stressed the principled positions Syria adopted under the wise leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, positions based on a commitment to the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights and the return of occupied Arab territory. He pointed to Syria's eagerness to attain a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions and international legitimacy. He said that Syria will never bargain over its territory and that there is no power that can impair its sovereignty over the Golan. Syria will thus remain loyal to its pan-Arab militant constants, and will struggle, no matter how long it takes, to regain all the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding his speech, Lt. Gen. Talas urged the fighters to be alert and cautious and to maintain a high level of combat preparedness to forestall the enemies of the homeland and the nation.

After this, he and those accompanying him were afforded a warm send-off as they left the formation command.

Al-Zu'bi, Lebanese Trade Minister Meet 2 Aug

JN0208164792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi met with Dr. Samir al-Maqdisi, Lebanese minister of economy and trade, at 1330 today. Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, attended the meeting. Dr. al-Maqdisi conveyed Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh's greetings to al-Zu'bi, who asked al-Maqdisi to convey his greetings in return.

Talks during the meeting centered on existing brotherly cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in all areas—cooperation that epitomizes the strong ties between both fraternal countries. They also discussed economic cooperation and trade, as well as ways of achieving the mutual interests of both Syria and Lebanon. Both ministers stressed large-scale economic cooperation and the need to promote it continuously. Talks then touched on issues of interest to both sides.

Commentary Views Israeli Raids in South Lebanon

JN3107154092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon have been noticeably stepped up at a time when the Lebanese Government is recovering state property from militias, extending its authority, and helping repatriate displaced people to their hometowns and villages to pave the way for holding general parliamentary elections. These aggressive raids are part of a hostile policy aimed at pressuring the Arabs and pushing them to make concessions and accept what the enemy government is offering them. These raids are also meant to obstruct the programs of the legitimate Lebanese authorities regarding the holding of parliamentary elections and the implementation of the articles enshrined in the national accord charter, which would irrevocably put Lebanon on the path to recovery, bolster Lebanese cohesion, and secure concerted efforts to rid the country of its economic crises and bring to the forefront the issue of Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

After Yitzhaq Rabin came to power and issued several statements about his intention to achieve peace in the region and make serious efforts toward that end, Zionist air raids were expected to abate, if not end completely. Likewise, the crimes and heinous murders committed by Zionist undercover units in the occupied Arab territories were also expected to end. But none of these things have happened. Indeed, hostile Israeli acts have continued on every front. On top of that, Rabin broke his promise to halt settlement activities. Worse still, he assured settlers, telling them of his determination to build 8,700 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—a development that enhanced the convictions that Rabin's peace position is only meant to blackmail the U.S. Administration and extricate billions of dollars in loans guarantees.

Israel's position toward Lebanon is the best evidence we can cite to show the Rabin government's evasion. The whole world has recognized the immense and tangible efforts being made by the legitimate Lebanese authorities to remove all hotbeds of sedition, consecrate state authority, and extend the rule of law. What the legitimate Lebanese authorities have achieved over the past two years, in close cooperation with Syria, is close to miraculous. Security now prevails everywhere. As for artillery and rifles, they are no longer the country's primary means of communication. The country has restored its vigor and vitality. Moreover, the Lebanese Army has been deployed all over the homeland, except along southern Lebanese border areas since Israel threatened to use force against the Lebanese Army if it advanced toward those areas.

Toward the end of August, the legitimate Lebanese authorities will hold parliamentary elections, the most important and decisive step that will be taken. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is as old as the Lebanese crisis. Many members of the chamber either died or became senile. The election of a new chamber would consecrate popular rule, as well as democracy, since parliament is one of the most basic pillars of legitimacy in any country.

The new chamber is bound to reflect the changes that have taken place in that country. It must truly represent the Lebanese masses. All of these accomplishments are appreciated throughout the world. Moreover, they have shown the Lebanese Government's determination to implement reform programs.

Were it really concerned with the emergence of a powerful Lebanese Government, capable of controlling its army and extending its authority over all the homeland, as it claims, the Israeli Government would not continue to launch incessant air raids on southern Lebanon. The Israeli Government has prevented the Lebanese Army from deploying units along the southern Lebanese border areas and shouldering their security responsibilities there. This is because the Israelis do not want a powerful authority or strong army in Lebanon. Israel wants a weak and fragmented Lebanon, a country sapped by civil strife and futile conflicts. It wants a ruined Lebanon that is incapable of raising its voice or demanding the return of its territory, a country that would accept the custodianship meant to be forced upon it.

Hence, we would like to say that Israel's peace positions are extremely doubtful. Among the basic prerequisites for peace are withdrawal from the occupied territories, including southern Lebanon, and the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. It must be recalled that Resolution 425 requires Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon. As Israeli air raids failed to achieve their purposes in the past, they will continue to fail now and in the future. Lebanon is no longer immature. Moreover, it has restored its national unity and laid down the pillars of its accord and recovery through sincere and constructive cooperation with Syria. Events have shown this cooperation to be the guarantee for the two fraternal countries. As for the Israeli rulers, they will find themselves, during the upcoming peace talks, faced with a Lebanon determined to restore all its territory and opposed to any bargaining or forfeiture of rights. This Lebanese position is propped up by international resolutions demanding complete and immediate Israeli withdrawal from all occupied parts of southern Lebanon.

Daily Comments on Lebanese Parliamentary Elections

JN0408103392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH today comments about the Lebanese elections, saying: Now that the date for the Lebanese parliamentary elections is approaching, fraternal Lebanon has become the scene of intense political activities in terms of the nominations submitted and the statements issued to articulate the nominees' platforms in all areas.

AL-BA'TH adds: Any talk of Lebanese elections is bound to spark off talk about the so-called opposition, which is attempting to undermine one of the legitimate rights of the government and the people alike. The opposition deserves to be called opposition only when it observes democratic traditions to express its views. Consequently, the opposition must engage itself in the elections battle.

AL-BA'TH adds: The national march in Lebanon has made big strides, which cannot, under any circumstances whatsoever, be backed away from. There are important priorities that require the concerted efforts of all Lebanese—priorities that remain above all personal considerations. These priorities must be dealt with and accomplished on the ground. Foremost among these priorities is the liberation of southern Lebanon from Zionist occupation.

The paper affirms that the consummation of constitutional institutions and the melting of all sons of the same homeland within the crucible of national unity provide Lebanon with additional strength that will help it achieve sovereignty and liberation.

Elections remain, first and foremost, a Lebanese domestic affair, in which there can be no room for these figures who are making public statements against the homeland's interests, the paper notes.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The time when individualistic leaders rely, throughout their political careers, on anachronistic concepts has become a thing of the past. Lebanon, today and tomorrow, is in dire need of the cohesion of all Lebanese. This cohesion must be demonstrated during elections, which will open a new chapter in Lebanon's quest for progress.

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Pays Visit 3 Aug

JN0308203692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 2030 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Meets With al-Asad

JN0408120092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad met with His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia.

Afghanistan

Thirteen Killed, 100 Wounded in 2 Aug Attacks

NC0308061992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry of the provisional Islamic State of Afghanistan has stated that shelling and missile attacks on Kabul yesterday left 13 dead and around 100 wounded. A statement by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, broadcast on Afghanistan television last night, said the objective behind the missile attacks on Kabul by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami was to prevent a visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Kabul.

According to the statement, a cease-fire was put into effect at 1600 Tehran time [1100 GMT] yesterday, but the shelling of the city continued for hours afterward. The Afghanistan television announcer said that yesterday's attacks destroyed some areas of Kabul city and damaged several aircraft at Kabul Airport.

Hekmatyar opposes the presence of the Uzbek militia under General Dostam's command in Kabul. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami has announced that yesterday's attacks on Kabul were in reply to shelling of party positions around the city.

President Expresses 'Regret'

LD0308173892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] This evening, in an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent in Kabul, Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, the ad hoc head of Afghanistan's Leadership Council and president, expressed regret about yesterday's events in Kabul. He stressed: We are trying to end the conflict through talks, but if the attack on Kabul recurs and the lives and properties of defenseless people are endangered we will respond strongly.

About his future trip to Iran he said: We need Iran's help. We hope to receive food, medicine, and fuel before the start of the cold season. In my trip to Iran we will discuss the receipt of that aid and also the expansion of ties. He added: We also have plans under way to return Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan, with the help of Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations.

Kabul Regime's Actions Assailed

LD0308184492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Commentary by station political commentator]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday the defeated units of the former communist regime launched an attack on the villages of Bagrami District near Kabul with their heavy weapons and artillery. They also attacked the positions of the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan and residential areas in the south of Kabul. Hezb-e Eslami's mojahedin were forced, after displaying forbearance and tolerance, to fire on military installations of the supporters of the former regime at the Khwaja Rawash Airport and at Darolaman Palace to defend the Muslim brothers and our jehadi trenches. Hezb-e Eslami could not take but this path in order to quiet them and make them cease subversion.

Armed forces of atheism and hostility to Islam and jehad resort to warmongering and provocative acts for the following reasons:

1. They see their existence and the guarantee of their role in the future as lying in the continuation of war and in the intensification of lawlessness and lack of security.

2. Colonialism is working to (?put an end to) the existing heavy equipment in the hands of the mojahedin in Kabul, and thereby put an end to the chance of our Muslim nation's army being equipped with modern arms.

3. They do not allow Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at-e Eslami to resolve present problems through understanding. By bringing about an atmosphere of fighting and insecurity, they want to terrify Jami'at into falling into the communist fold for their existence.

4. By creating a war situation in Kabul they commit innumerable war crimes to provoke public opinion against Hezb-e Eslami and its leadership, and to reduce Hezb-e Eslami's popularity which it has obtained by its recent stances.

These aims are clearly at one with the communists, and to achieve them they mount subversion and warmongering efforts. With great regret we say that the statement issued by the so-called Islamic State of Afghanistan regarding these activities is a copy of the previous regime's lies and forgery. They say Hekmatyar fired rockets into Kabul where about three people were killed. Let us forget the fact that Hekmatyar has been struggling for 22 years for the dignity of his Muslim nation; let us forget the fact that over the past 14 years he has been the star of the defense of and resistance for the holy sanctuary [of the country] and has been the cause and ideal of his Muslim nation; let us also set aside the fact that Hekmatyar, as a Muslim, considers pity on the creations of God as his principle responsibility. Which idiot does not know how much popularity Hekmatyar has gained among the Muslim people of Afghanistan, especially Kabul; and how could he be ready to play the game of blind firing into Kabul? Would anyone familiar with only the alphabet of politics, let alone Hekamatyar, gamble his prestige, gained by defending the rights of a people, by oppressing the very same people? Definitely, the answer is negative.

It is good for Ostad Rabbani and Mas'ud to know it is not yet too late to confess honestly to the nation that they have no dominance in Kabul and no control over the situation. The communists rule everything, only with a change of face; otherwise, Rabbani and Mas'ud would only suffer further loss. Questions now arise as to whether they can anymore hide the fact that Mas'ud is no more the legendary power of whom the West spoke. Can they hide the fact that Masud has only 2,000-3'000 men in Kabul? Can they hide the fact

that the administration of KHAD [Secret Service] with its hundreds of thousands of personnel is active with all vigor? Can they make people believe that the Ministry of Defense is not administered by the communists in terms of expertise and staff? Clearly they cannot!

It is for this reason that instead of weakening the position of Hekmatyar by issuing such statements, they actually further expose their own nature and the identity of the unholy coalition front in Kabul. As Hekmatyar stood against almost the whole world for the honor and dignity of his Muslim nation three months ago, his life will by the same token be dedicated to the freedom and tranquility of his mojahed nation; it has to be that way.

Kabul Airport Resumes Operations

LD0308171792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Kabul city airport, the target of attacks by Hekmatyar's forces, resumed normal activities today with the return of relative calm to the city. According to reports received from Kabul, several planes flew from the airport today.

Three planes were damaged in shelling on 2 August. The reports add that Kabul city is calm today, the shops are open, and people are walking about as usual in the streets. This calm seems to follow the cease-fire which was declared on 2 August by Shah Ahmad Mas'ud, defense minister of Afghanistan's interim government, to end the fighting between the warring parties.

Past Regime 'Remnants' Blamed for Situation

LD0108203892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From the very day when the atheist regimes took power in our beloved Afghanistan they started to shed the blood of and to martyr our faithful and Muslim people. In addition to this crime, they tried by every possible means to sow the seeds of distrust, hostility, and confusion among our risen and fearless nation. They did their best to prevent our persecuted nation from enjoying unity and fraternity.

Unfortunately, due to the enemy's disastrous work and interference, some of the jihadi groups fell prey to misfortune. Although it is the remnants of the past atheist regimes which are primarily responsible for the present lamentable situation, we cannot deny that some countries and groups which are collaborating with the forces of blasphemy are a major factor in the illegitimate interference in the affairs of our country and in the creation of obstacles and difficulties against the Islamic revolution.

One must say, however, that the mojahed Afghans themselves should have taken every step to frustrate all these conspiracies, satanic moves, and interference, and should have prevented every internal and external evil conspiracy. Unfortunately, some groups and some individuals are still being used directly or indirectly by the enemies of our country and nation for the accomplishment of their evil intentions. [passage omitted]

Promises were made and assurances were given that the remnants of the regime will all be moved out of the city, that they will be removed from office, that their power will be taken away, and that they will be disarmed. However, those who gave this assurance were not sure whether they had the ability to fulfill this promise, or whether courage alone was sufficient to fulfill this promise. We leave this question to be considered by those who promised to fulfill the above commitments. [passage omitted]

Mas'ud Called Unsuccessful in Restoring Security

LD0408082992 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 4, IRNA—Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of the Jebha-e Nejat-e Melli (National Salvation Front) of Afghanistan has accused the Defence Ministry of creating disorder and aggravating the differences among other organizations by interfering in their affairs. Reports reaching here from Peshawar today said that the Mojaddedi's press bureau in a statement described as "unsuccessful" Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in fulfilling the ministry's programs and restoring security.

It said there was no law and security in the Afghan capital and that followers of Shah Mas'ud in Afghanistan and especially in Kabul, disturbed the security. It also accused officials of the Defence Ministry of interfering in the affairs of other ministries.

The statement demanded that neither Ahmad Shad Mas'ud nor a person from Jami'at-e Eslami party be given a ministerial position at the Defence Ministry in Afghanistan's future cabinet.

Iranian Official Views Incidents, Developments

NC0308065992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The latest developments in Afghanistan were discussed at a meeting between Hojjat ol-Eslam Fayyaz, head of the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami Representative Council, and members of the council with Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania. During this meeting Fayyaz expressed regrets over yesterday's clashes among jihad forces in Kabul, stating: The Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami believes that the mojahedin should solve their problems through talks and that military clashes not only will not help solve Afghanistan's problems but are contrary to the interests of the Muslim Afghan nation.

Borujerdi condemned the recent clashes as well, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran sincerely hopes that an Islamic, independent, stable, and tranquil Afghanistan will exist so that the Muslim people of Afghanistan can start the country's reconstruction.

President Appoints First Vice President

LD0108170392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The press office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that in accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi has been appointed first vice president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Explosion Kills General in Kabul

LD0108165292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] We have received a report that Major General Gholam Rasul Parwani, deputy head of the National Security Department for Military Affairs, was martyred as a result of an explosion this morning in Baraki-e Shahrara region of Kabul city.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that in addition to the general's driver, three of his guards were killed. The cause of the explosion is not yet known. The case is under investigation.

Former Interim President Mojaddedi Interviewed

PM2807141392 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 7

[Interview with former Afghan Interim Council President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi by Ayman Habib; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mojaddedi] I have come to the Kingdom for a minor pilgrimage on my way to the United States for treatment. I was very glad to meet with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who has supported the Afghan people and taken an honorable stand regarding their struggle and who is showing great interest in what is currently taking place in Afghanistan. He personally follows what happens in Kabul. During our meeting he, may God protect him, expressed dismay at the current differences and clashes in Kabul. [passage omitted]

[Habib] During your meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, did he make any recommendations regarding the Afghan issue?

[Mojaddedi] He, may God keep him safe, counseled unity and agreement among the mujahidin brothers without feuds that would reflect negatively on the country. [passage omitted]

[Habib] It seems to me that the cause of the continuing differences in the country is the fact that the time is not yet ripe for a full settlement among the main parties. It is as if there is is lack of equal opportunities.

[Mojaddedi] When I was in power I achieved understanding and reconciliation with all groups and parties. There were contacts between me and Hekmatyar. He voiced support for me but I opposed that and stressed that I did not wish to be the cause of differences and disagreements. I enjoyed the love and respect of the public and the leaders who welcomed me on my arrival in Kabul. I know that all the parties and leaders have demands. Each must be given what he is entitled to. Without that principle there can be no stability in the country.

[Habib] What about the elections?

[Mojaddedi] Elections cannot be held in this atmosphere of insecurity and instability. If the situation stabilizes within 18 months, then elections could be held, but not before then. [passage omitted]

[Habib] The people are tired. They expected many reforms when the mujahidin government took over, but these reforms did not materialize. In fact there is a crisis resulting from shortages of many necessities.

[Mojaddedi] That was the case before we assumed power. Calm returned when we assumed power and the basic commodities were available, but the situation has now changed completely. Many people insisted that I remain in power but, despite rumors to the contrary, I refused. I wanted a transfer of power one month after my appointment, not two months; but after the missile attack on my plane I changed my mind and was determined to complete my presidential term.

[Habib] There is a feeling that the Arab mujahidin in Kabul have met with ingratitude, in the sense that there is dissatisfaction with or nonacceptance of their role or presence in Afghanistan. Is that true?

[Mojaddedi] Frankly, we welcome the real Arab mujahidin but we reject the extremists among them. No state likes others to interfere in its domestic affairs. We supported the Saudi Kingdom and Kuwait at the time of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. I informed the Saudi Government that we were ready to send 100,000 mujahidin to support it. That attitude angered some people, but my reply was that the two holy mosques should be defended and that the Saudi Government had supported us for 13 years and continued to support us while the rest of the Arab states gave nothing for the jihad.

[Habib] Will that affect future relations between Afghanistan and the Arab states and the Arab peoples who greatly supported the mujahidin?

[Mojaddedi] We have tried to explain to the Afghan people that the extremists who come to Afghanistan always do so as individuals without any link with their governments or people. I do not believe that any Arab country condones the improper attitudes.

[Habib] Do you believe that international factors are linked to the current instability in your country? There are some who maintain that there is some European contribution to the instability through support for Mas'ud or the Jamiat-e Eslami and that the United States is playing a part in Afghanistan. What is the truth?

[Mojaddedi] Frankly, I have not felt any such influences, roles, and foreign interferences to destabalize the domestic situation in the country. I believe that some of the brothers

in the country lack goodwill as far as concerns giving everyone what he is entitled to. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Statement for Officers, Others

LD3107182892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Statement by the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan]

[Text] Following the statement on 24 July, all officers, noncommissioned officers, and various (?skilled employees) who have received damages because of the installation of the communist regime, are being informed:

1. The courtyard of the former Ministry of Defense, opposite the Presidential Palace, is assigned for the personnel department to work. The aforementioned officers and others can go to the appointed site on Tuesday, 4 August.

2. Issues related to army officers who have been martyred or disappeared during the former regime can be followed up by their heirs.

3. Officers and employees of sarandoi and security should go to their related ministries.

Planning Chief Meets on Socio-Economic Situation

LD2807212192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Seyyed 'Ali Mohammad Javid, acting minister of planning, met this morning in his office with Mr. Ivanov, economic consul of the Russian Federation Embassy in Kabul. During the meeting, which was attended by deputy ministers of the Ministry of Planning, a series of talks were conducted on trade and the exchange of goods. A number of protocols are due to be signed in this respect with the ministries of planning and commerce and the Bank of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Esteemed Seyyed 'Ali Mohammad Javid met this morning Mr. (Richard Henel), former head of the International Aid Agency, and Mr. (Barclay), its regional head, and conducted talks with them. During the meeting esteemed Javid spoke about the present socio-economic situation, the needs of the country, and the participation of countries, international institutions, and non-governmental aid agencies in the revival of rural areas, public health, water projects, agriculture, and the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

In response (Henel) and (Barclay) expressed the cooperation of their agency's institutions, which comprise 37 agencies from 12 countries, in providing food for [word indistinct] children, and in medical care, solar energy, drinking water, and other fields in line with the development program of Afghanistan.

India

Chemical Weapons Convention Stand Clarified

BK0308153892 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1452 GMT 3 Aug 92

["Spokesman's response to a query on reported news item regarding signing of chemical weapons convention by India: dated 31-7-92"—ISI headline]

[Text] In response to a question regarding a news item which appeared in certain sections of the press in which it has been reported that the minister of state for external affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, has said that India is willing to sign proposed chemical weapons convention, the spokesman clarified that the report conveys a slightly incomplete picture. He referred to one of his earlier press briefings in which he has stated that India has certain reservations about the treaty.

The spokesman said that the real point is that chemical weapons convention is subject of intensive negotiations in the conference on disarmament in Geneva at the present time. As yet the adhoc committee has not taken a decision on the final shape of CW [chemical weapons] convention. Present negotiations, in which we are playing a very active role, relate precisely to some of the concerns which were indicated to press in one of earlier briefings, after the visit of the Federal German Commissioner Holik's visit to India, in early July this year. The minister of state also mentioned some of these concerns yesterday. He said, for example, that developing countries believe that if they were to accede to CW convention, and accept verification regime that is envisaged under CW convention, their access to chemical equipment and technology for purposes not prohibited by the convention should not be subjected to additional restraints such as those existing in the form of adhoc export control regimes. India's commitment to a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons through an agreement is well known. It is in this spirit that India has always expressed the willingness to sign CW convention, but, it must fulfill these criteria. Criteria and difficulties that we still see in certain aspects of the convention are precisely subject of negotiations today in Geneva. We hope that these negotiations will result in a satisfactory treaty, which it is our long declared intention to become signatories to. We hope that as a result of these negotiations we will be able to negotiate a satisfactory treaty which will enjoy universal adherence.

Bush Offer of Delhi-Islamabad Mediation Rejected

BK0208091992 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Bush as Mediator"]

[Text] President George Bush has offered to act as an intermediary between India and Pakistan to "reduce tensions and faciliate dialogue". The offer is based on wrong assumptions and a warped understanding of the nature of the problems vitiating India's relationship with Pakistan. The country carved out of undivided India is certainly a pain in India's neck; but to talk of "rivalry" between the two countries, as President Bush has described the relationship,

is to misstate the nature of the trouble. Pakistan has sizzled with envy that India is the successor State of undivided India. It remains a source of problems to the region as a whole. Pakistan's claim to parity with India is not an innocent ambition of the favoured client state of the US in the region. It stems from the two-nation theory which broke up India, a large composite country. It is an expression of will to power—a determination of Pakistan to dominate the region and the relatively underdeveloped Islamic world. Pakistan occupied a large portion of the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir which acceded to India according to the procedure then in force and which thus became an inalienable part of this country. There are a number of other disputes over which it has precipitated wars and crises with its neighbour. But none of these makes it India's rival, nor has India treated it as a rival at any time. President Bush's offer is self-contradictory. He wants India and Pakistan to resolve their differences bilaterally under the Simla accord. But the accord does not provide for anyone as the intermediary: in fact, mediation goes against the spirit of bilateralism in which the Simla accord was conceived. The induction of a long-standing patron of Pakistan as the mediator would amount to internationalisation of the dispute which was that the Simla accord sought to bar and which is exactly what Pakistan has been trying to do all the time. If India accepts President Bush's offer, it would make the same mistake as when it went to the UN with its complaint on the advice of Lord Mountbatten in December, 1947. President Bush wants a solution of differences over Kashmir to "incorporate both a political and a security dimension". India went to the UN under Article 35 of Chapter 6 of the UN Charter to ask Pakistan to prevent its personnel and its soil from being used for the invasion of Kashmir. The political security dimensions which President Bush seeks to impart to the question will broaden it and make its solution difficult—for, in fact, these dimensions were added as a result of the US decision to make Pakistan a pawn in its cold war against the Soviet Union. In the long interview, President Bush has also referred to other issues which have become irritants in India-US relations—nuclear non-proliferation, missile technology control, intellectual property rights, the Uruguay Round of trade talks, human rights, and what have you. He has reiterated the known positions of his Administration which suggests that, despite all the goodwill he has expressed, and one may add that despite all the efforts India has been making, the gulf dividing the approaches of India and America to world problems remains wide.

Security Increase on Gujarat Border Noted

BK0308150092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The center is contemplating steps to strength security in the water section near Kutch area in Gujarat border. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, informed the Rajya Sabha that the Home Ministry is having discussions with the Gujarat government on this issue. He was replying to clarifications on his statement in both houses of parliament last week on the recovery of huge quantity of arms and ammunition at Ahmedabad recently. Earlier, members wanted the center to strengthen the intelligence and security network in Rajasthan and Gujarat border. They said India should take up with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and ask Islamabad to stop its interference in India's internal affairs.

Kashmir Militants Set Up Suicide Squads

BK3107111692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Jul 92 p 11

[Text] New Delhi—A suicide squad is being set up by Kashmir militants to carry out strikes against well-guarded and difficult targets.

According to intelligence reports. Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, a die-hard, fundamentalist outfit, has formed a group consisting of highly motivated youths for carrying out attacks. About 50 such youths are reported to be in Srinagar. Further recruitments are on.

Information recently received by the Home Ministry has pointed out closing of ranks by militant outfits in Kashmir in a bid to consolidate their movement. They have also launched a campaign to build up anti-India fervour in the Valley and and get more weapons.

The militants are reportedly planning to step up attacks, targeting Government offices and establishments as well as senior officials. They use remote control devices, intelligence reports said. The militants also possess heavy weaponry like mortars. Attacks on security forces have also been intensitied recently resulting in heavy casualties.

According to intelligence reports, the militants are winning the confidence of children who serve tea and refreshments to securitymen.

The militants also use this strategy to incite attacks on security forces with the intention of inviting a crackdown in the locality, while those behind the attack have already fled the area. Harried and frustrated securitymen look, for suspects, rough up people and serve the militants cause of building up public anger.

Prodding them to this end are ideologues of the terrorist outfits, notable among them being four leaders including a Jamiat-e-Islamia leader and one from the People's Conference. They have launched a forum to whip up anti-national feelings. They were released recently after being held in New Delhi for a long period, during which they were given special treatment to keep them from going back to militancy.

Following their release, these leaders went back to Kashmir—and to their old ways. The latest in the propaganda campaign is running down India and its aura of strength by projecting its claim to power as hollow, its society degenerate, its people weak and the system corrupt. They urge the militant groups to unite against the common enemy: India.

While they go about this anti-national campaign, the son of one of the leaders is reportedly running a business in Delhi, availing all facilities. He is also reported to have taken loans from banks against his property in Anantnag.

The Jamiat leader has been going to various places, addressing small meetings and gatherings in mosques, spreading anti-India propaganda, fanning rumours of atrocities on Muslims in the country and criticising the concepts of democracy and secularism. Islam is projected as the only saviour.

A Shia leader has been appealing to his community to support the militants' movement, holding out the "carrot" of establishing an Islamic government in Kashmir.

Youths in the Valley, fed since childhood on hatred for India, and "Islamic" preachings believe that "liberation" is near as the "golden age" of Islam has arrived with resurgence of fundamentalism in several Islamic countries, which they believe will sweep the world.

Infiltration, now reported as routine matter, is on. About 250 men are reported to have infiltrated through Tangmarg Chadura in Tilalara Sonemarg area in batches of two and three, after three months' training in Pakistan.

Pathans from Pakistan are also reported to have shipped in. In recent encounters, two pathans are believed to have been shot dead in Baramulla and one in Chooru village off Baramulla highway.

Meanwhile, the few Congressmen in the Valley are disappointed and disenchanted with the central leadership. Not a tear was shed by the Congressmen here for the Baramulla district president, who was killed by militants earlier this month.

Kashmir Situation, Election Possibility Viewed

BK3107105592 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Jul 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Grim Turn In Kashmir"]

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Mr Girish Saxena, claimed the other day that "the militants are losing ground. The trend is irreversible..." Shortly afterwards, the militants put a question mark against that claim when they made an abortive bid to blow up the civil secretariat and assembly complex in the heart of fortified Srinagar. On the admission of an official spokesman, the militants fired rockets in quick succession both on the secretariat and the assembly building. Mercifully, the missiles missed their targets. That the militants could launch rockets with impunity months after they had nearly maimed the top brass of the state police in a bomb attack on the police headquarters speaks poorly of the intelligence operations of the security forces. Far from succeeding in bringing about a modicum of normalcy in the troubled valley, evidence piles up daily of the ravages being wrought by the pro-Pakistani militants. The killing of a deputy superintendent of police in Baramullah last Sunday in a grenade attack too underlines the failure of the security forces to anticipate the moves of the militants. Mr Abdul Rashid Khan, a DSP [Deputy Superintendant of Poice] attached to the police headquarters, was killed while he was returning after attending the funeral of another DSP, Mr Shital Singh, who had been killed by the militants the previous day. In spite of the heavy presence of security forces in the valley, much remains to be done to extinguish the challenge posed by the Kashmiri militants and their patrons across the border. But nothing exposes better the failure of the administration than the reported siege of Doda, a small town near Jammu, by the militants. The disclosure by Mr L. K. Advani in the Lok Sabha, on Tuesday that Doda had been taken over by the militants did not, significantly, elicit a response from the Union Home Minister. Even the local police station was said to have been taken over by the militants.

The events of the last couple of days should at least persuade the Union Home Minister that no free and fair elections.can be held in Jammu and Kashmir in the foreseeable future. It was only on June 29 that Mr S. B. Chavan had told the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to his ministry that the Centre was keen to hold polls in the State. Either Mr Chavan was out of touch with the reality in the valley or he was indulging in wishful thinking. The truth is that despite the periodic arrest of militants or their death in encounters with the security forces or in the internecine warfare between the various militant organisations, there has been no substantive improvement in the law and order situation to warrant the kind of optimism that Mr Chavan is prone to display on Kashmir. A long and arduous struggle lies ahead to persuade the militants that India will not yield to their guns. Tragically, it seems, the militants will not lay down their guns until their patrons across the border are suitably impressed about this country's determination to squelch the challenge of secessionist violence. Periodic talk about holding polls sends the wrong signals all around. While nothing can be lost by negotiating with the misguided youths in the valley, the Centre should leave no one in doubt that it stands committed to eliminate armed militancy from Kashmir. Till then, all talk of elections must cease.

Top Sikh Militant Killed in Amritsar

BK0408033092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore militant, Navroop Singh Dhottan, the new chief of the so-called Khalistan Liberation Front has been killed in an encounter with the security forces at village Usman in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, Navroop Singh was responsible for over 500 killings. Four of his accomplices were also killed in the encounter. One army jawan [soldier] was killed and two injured.

In West Bengal, two hardcore terrorists were killed in an encounter with police under Onda police station in Bankura District on Sunday. One of the accomplices managed to escape.

In Gujarat, eight people were killed and three injured when four unidentified car bomb assailants opened indiscriminate fire in the Udhav industrial area of Ahmedabad city last night. The chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, later reviewed the situation and a red alert has been sounded throughout the state. A massive manhunt has been launched to nab the culprits.

Trade Review Talks With Bangladesh Begin

BK0308160292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to accelerate trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in the context of their liberalized export-import policies. In his address at the India-Bangladesh trade review talks in New Delhi today, the minister of state for commerce, Mr. P.J. Kurien, said there is great scope for industrial, economic, and technical cooperation between the two countries. The Bangladeshi commerce minister, Mr. M.K. Anwar, in his statement underlined his country's desire to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations with India. He sought India's cooperation in ensuring a balanced growth of two-way trade in view of the adverse balance of trade facing Bangladesh. The official-level talks between the two countries which began today will conclude on Thursday [6 August]. At the end of their talks, the two countries are expected to extend their existing trade agreement for a period of three more years.

Iran

Daily Criticizes Iraqi 'Braggings' on Kuwait

LD0408085392 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday castigated the recent braggings of Iraqi rulers over their territorial claim against Kuwait and noted, "such tensions in the region, coinciding with the second anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, have loomed [as received] prospects of peace and security on Kuwait-Iraq borders." The roots of the crisis in the region should be sought in the entity of the Iraqi Ba'th Party which has ignited the flames of two devastating wars in this part of the world, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in its editorial.

The late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni was the first personality who identified the true nature of Saddam Husayn and warned that as long as Saddam and his Ba'th Party remained in Iraq, the region would not experience peace, said the paper. However, it added, rulers of the regional states, especially the Kuwaitis, in order to make faces at the Islamic Republic, put their ports, financial resources, oil, highways and even islands at the disposal of "Iraq's executioner".

"Time passed by and Saddam, with the help of the same arms and weapons gifted by Arab royal courts, backfired against them. He occupied Kuwait within a few hours and scared the Saudis...NATO forces, led by the U.S., created a situation in the region which even overshadowed Saddam's crimes." Although the U.S., through low- scale attacks, was capable of overthrowing the Baghdad regime (during the Persian Gulf war), instead it smashed the economic- industrial structure of the country and massacred innocent Iraqi people, it said.

Whatever the consequence of Iraqi braggings, the ultimate winners would be American and British arms manufacturing companies which, under the status quo, are taking advantage of the deep concern of the Arab royal courts in order to receive their approval for a list of new orders, JOMHURI regretted. Past experience has proven that existence of Saddam's rule and his Ba'th Party is equal to chaos and insecurity in the region, because, if he finds the opportunity, he would maintain his aggressive and destructive spirit. Therefore, it said, the solution should be sought in a popular government based on the votes of the people, but regretted that some Iraqi groups which had struggled for the establishment of an Islamic rule, had recently "deviated" from their true path.

"No doubt, the decline of Saddam and the Ba'th Party is imminent. But the question is that what is the right way of standing a self- centered government? What is certain is that this way should definitely not pass through dishonored royal courts whose main objective is to deal a blow on Islam and Muslims."

SAIRI Supporters Rally at UN Office in Tehran

LD0308113792 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Hundreds of Iraqi Muslims residing here today rallied in front of the United Nations office to protest the recent Iraqi military attacks on the southern marshlands. The demonstrators carrying placards and pictures of martyr Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, the late Shiite leader of Iraq, called on the international and human rights organizations to take actions to stop the Iraqi crimes.

Before dispersing, the rally read out a letter of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) to the United Nations secretary general and members of the Security Council and a copy was handed over to a U.N. officer in Tehran. The letter said that the Iraqi regime has launched new massive military attacks against the populated areas in the southern marshlands of al- 'Amarah, Basra and al-Nasiriyah.

"The continuation of these attacks and the use of various weapons including chemical and napalm bombs against the population of the marshlands put on international organizations and humanitarian agencies...A big and serious responsibility to stop the genocide which violates the Security Council resolution 688 and other resolutions demanding a protection for the Iraqi people in the south and north against the endless aggressions and stupid acts of the regime."

Addressing the U.N. chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Security Council members, the letter further said, "Our people look forward to taking a daring and responsible stance by you to halt the aggressions of the regime and protect the population in Iraq especially in the south and marshlands."

Speaking to IRNA, head of the SAIRI Propagation Office Sadruddin Qabanchi said that the only way for ending the present crisis in the southern marshland is to set up a safe haven in the south, like the one in the north, and persuade Saddam Husayn to observe the articles of the Resolution 688. He added that the military action of the allied forces against Iraq, as a pressure lever without the presence of the

Iraqi people was not effective. "We ask the United Nations to trust the Iraqi people and avoid any military intervention without presence and support of the popular forces, the Iraqi people in particular," he urged. He stressed that "Saddam will not fall only through military pressure without the people's presence."

Palestinian Jihad Movement Officials Meet Leaders

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Members

LD0208132592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with members of the Central Council of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine this morning. He said: Based on divine promises and historical truths, we believe Palestine will be free. He stressed that the most important message of the jihad groups of the Palestinian people is this: Young Palestinians must not become disheartened and stop their righteous struggle against the enemy's plots. This is the duty of us all. The Muslims have a duty to keep alight the holy torch of the Palestinian peoples' jihad. They must make full use of the opportunities that have been created. They must be sure that God will not forget the problems and difficulties they have shouldered.

Addressing members of the Central Council of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, the president said: Know that the people of Iran are part of your people. We do not separate ourselves from the oppressed people of Palestine. We shall not forsake the duty that Islam has placed on us.

In conclusion, he stressed: We do not doubt that the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine will be victorious.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Uday, member of the Central Council of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, praised the principled and determined stand of our country regarding Palestine. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran and its honorable leader as the strongest supporters of Muslims, and said: We have embarked on the long and difficult jihad against the usurper regime in Jerusalem. Our aspirations come from the Islamic revolution of Iran and Imam Khomeyni, may God have mercy on his soul. We are hopeful of final victory.

Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine, said: The line of jihad in Palestine is martyrdom. The Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine managed to play a vital role in the flames of the Intifadah as an active movement after many years of struggle against the usurper Israel.

A report on the latest developments in the struggles of the Palestinian people was submitted to the president at the meeting.

Khamene'i Hails Palestinians

LD0308153192 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug 3, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here today called for perpetuation of the campaign against the enemies of Islam especially the occupying regime of Qods [Jerusalem] until its demise. In a meeting with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement's Central Council members, Ayatollah Khamene'i said, "the rise of Islamic movements in the world are outstanding indications to the inabilitiy of the arrogant and satanic powers for oppressing the Muslims." The leader lauded the Palestinians for their struggle against the Zionist regime which gets a full backing from the U.S. and the west for the crimes committed against Muslims there.

The uprising of Palestinians proved that global arrogance can do nothing by way of countering the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement as the arrogant's vindictive efforts to harm the Muslim people of Iran do not work but the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran is heightening day by day, said the leader. He called the issue of Palestine as "the main and pivotal principle of Iran's foreign policy" and expressed his support for the Islamic Jihad of Palestine.

The Islamic Jihad members Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Udah and Fathi al-Shaqaqi briefed him on the last developments of the people's uprising in the occupied lands. They admired the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i as an "encouraging factor" for the Palestinians in line with the Islamic teachings as well as the steadfast policy of the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Ayatollah Khomeyni. They pointed out that they oppose any compromise with the enemy and stressed on the Islamic Jihad stance as the best in dealing with the conspiracies of Islam's enemies.

Velayati Meets Officials

NC0408064692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] A meeting of Foreign Minister Velayati and members of the Central Council of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement emphasized the need to continue jihad operations and the Muslim Palestinians' resistance in the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

At the meeting, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, spoke about the Muslim Palestinians' struggles against the Zionist enemy and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting these struggles. Condemning any type of compromise with the Zionist regime, he stated: We cannot preserve ourselves and our identity without an uprising and jihad. Al-Shaqaqi described the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, as a source of hope for Muslims everywhere, especially the Palestinian nation, and pointed out that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement follows the directives of the guardian of the Muslims' cause, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in continuing the resistance and the jihad against the Zionist regime.

Velayati too referred to the solidarity between the Iranian and Palestinian nations and lauded the intifadah of the Muslim Palestinians.

Daily Urges Afghan Mojahedin To Hold Elections

NC0308125392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Power Struggle On in Kabul"]

[Text] In the wake of relative calm in recent weeks, the situation of Afghanistan once again became critical and rival forces clashed with one another, as inter-party conflicts continued without being resolved. Despite the declaration of a ceasefire, these clashes still continue there. This time, too, the Hezb-e Vahdat and the Islamic Unity Party headed by 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf is the principal axis of the confrontations. Apparently, at every turn calm is disrupted in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on the flimsiest of pretext. Surely, this does not signify that Kabul enjoys security when there is no conflict there. Rather unrest has been the order of the day in Kabul in the two months following the collapse of the former regime.

All mojahedin groups in the past two months have meantime shown that they lack political maturity to run the affairs of the country. Various types of warfare, ranging from all-out battles to cold as well as overt to covert wars, still continue full force for the assumption of the reigns of power in Afghanistan. Incoming reports, unfortunately, indicate that even the formulation of the constitution, instead of considering the national interests of Afghanistan, is coming to be based on the distribution of power among the existing groups inside the country. If this takes place, it can in itself be catastrophic.

Under the present circumstances, there is no alternative for the Mojahedin groups but to pave the way towards a popular vote in a democratic milieu, so that the scope and range of power of each party and society would be determined on the basis of popular support they receive and not on the basis of the arms they deploy, or the violence they indulge in.

Meantime, the groups truly seeking the preservation of Afghanistan's territorial integrity and [to] emerge out of their present backwardness should refrain from involvement in existing conflicts and clashes. Especially the Hezb-e Vahdat should be cognizant that such clashes are actually a kind of "politico- military trap" aimed at turning Afghanistan into a new Lebanon in the region. To neutralize such a ploy, Hezb-e Vahdat and all well- wishers should display "revolutionary self-restraint" and should not get involved in such a horrendous and dangerous situation engineered from outside Afghanistan's borders.

Supreme National Security Council Criticizes UN

LD0108194192 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—The Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) on Saturday criticized the United Nations Security Council for its silence on the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and of the Arabs in southern Iraq, calling on it to take action in this regard.

The session, chaired by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said the Islamic Republic demands that the Security Council and other international bodies should take immediate measures to stop the massacre of Muslims by the Serbs.

It also deplored the UN Security Council's failure to take appropriate measures to protect the Shiite Arab majority of Iraq especially in the southern parts of that country from the pressures exerted by the Ba'athist army.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran holds those people denying the Iraqi people a right to decide their own fate responsible for these crimes," it said. The council said the Islamic Republic was strongly in favour of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity.

All members of the council, its political advisors and top military commanders were present in the session.

Velayati—Iran Not Interested in Nuclear Weapons

LD0108210992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said yesterday: Iran has no interest in developing nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. In an interview in Tehran with the German (?reputed) daily FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, in response to a question that the Western intelligence services have estimated that Iran will be able to test its nuclear weapons by the end of the current decade, Dr. Velayati said: I categorically deny this claim that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. He added: Our answer about the development of chemical and biological weapons is also negative.

In referring to the former Soviet Union, Velayati said: Some countries which have been nuclear powers are now demanding money from the West to demolish their nuclear arsenals. Velayati added: Therefore it is a foolish policy for some countries that are still seeking nuclear weapons [as heard].

Reports of Nuclear Arsenal 'Propaganda'

LD0308102392 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—An English daily Monday commented on the propaganda campaigns on Iran's developing nuclear, chemical or biological weapons saying that they were aimed at justifying possession of these arms by the Zionist regime and forcing the Persian Gulf states to enter into military pacts with the U.S.

In its editorial the 'TEHRAN TIMES' said that certain countries, notably the United States and especially the pro-Zionist elements in the U.S. Administration make ballyhoo every now and then on this topic.

The propaganda is launched despite the fact that experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency who inspected Iranian centers deny that Iran is planning to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iranian officials have reiterated on various occasions that Tehran is not interested in developing these arms.

The propaganda is aimed at "scaring Iran's neighbors, especially the Persian Gulf littoral states, preventing the establishment of friendly ties between Iran and these countries and encouraging them to enter into military pacts with the U.S."

They also want to justify the illegal presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of preserving safety of commercial navigation.

It mentioned "diverting the psychological security concerns of the Middle Eastern Arab countries away from the danger posed by Israel, and making these countries focus their attention on Iran" as another goal of the propaganda campaigns.

The propaganda is also aimed at justifying the Zionist regime's possession of nuclear weapons "by implying that Israel is not the only country in the region which possesses such weapons."

"Intimidating some of the new republics in the former Soviet Union, preventing any kind of rapprochement between these counties and Iran," should be added to the list of objectives mentioned by the paper.

The editorial as an example mentioned that whenever there is talk of expansion of Iran's ties with the Kazakh or Ukraine Republics, the Western propaganda loudspeakers spread rumors that these republics are planning to sell nuclear technology to Iran.

"And to complete the propaganda plot, there is the possibility that Israel might be tempted to engage in military adventurism against Iran, similar to the operation it undertook against Iraq in the early 80s."

The daily stressed that Iran should be ready to retaliate properly "if the Zionist regime were to make such a blunder."

Free-Trade Zone Established in Sirjan

LD0208144992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] With the establishment of the organization for the development of Kerman, the free trade-industry zone of Sirjan in Kerman Province will begin its activities next year. Announcing this fact to reporters, the governor-general of Kerman said: With the establishment of this special region—the affiliated service-commercial facilities to be established nearby; the use of the region's extensive potential; attractions such as the creation of rapid mechanisms for clearing cargo; a rapid international communication center for commercial information; and facilities for banking, insurance, and transport services—Sirjan will be transformed, within five years, into one of Iran's largest commercial centers and a complement to similar areas in the south of the Persian Gulf [as heard].

He added: Iranian and foreign organizations now have the necessary amount of time to establish a presence in the Sirjan trade zone, which will be transformed into a cargo depot and a center for international commercial services.

The director of Kerman's development organization, for his part, explained the special features of the Sirjan free trade-industrial zone, saying: In view of the short distance to Bandar-e 'Abbas, Sirjan will initially be used as an important support center and a base for storing cargo and raw material. Then, it will be transformed into an important trade and commercial focal point in the region. He concluded by adding: On the basis of coordination with the Foreign Ministry, foreign nationals will be able to arrive and depart from the Sirjan trade-industry zone without visas and in the form of transit.

Larijani on Need To Boost Non-Oil Exports

NC0308134992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 23 Jul 92 pp 1, 15

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Excerpts] Tehran—A leading politician highlighted the role of the private sector for better prospects in economic and commercial areas and said that the Islamic Republic should create "an economic domain".

In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Dr. Javad Larijani said that the government role should "be just that of an observer and inspector" to keep the private sector within limits of the country's laws and its national interest.

The Majles deputy from the Tehran constituency said, "Even the oil, petrochemical and natural gas sector should be handed over to the private sector which can produce better results."

Commenting on foreign investment, the former deputy foreign minister in charge of Euro-America said, "The most important factor is reliability, for which the creation of an economic domain can be the best formula."

"But," he said, "this economic domain should be a two-way affair which can be a guarantee for success."

Member of the Supreme National Security Council Dr. Larijani said, "We should be realistic in our overall policy."

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has all that is needed for a genuinely powerful country and what we need is a general policy based on "realism".

He recalled his earlier axiom which calls for "acting regionally to gain internationally."

"We should acquire security to attract the partners in the economic domain for which the popular base is vital," he said referring to the need for the nation to be present on the political scene all the time, along with obedience to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Larijani, who is also a member of the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission, said a specific plan should be prepared to attract commercial, economic and trade partners.

"First we should decide what to do in that economic domain which can be fixed only through a specific plan," Larijani, head of the Institute for Studies in Theoretical Physics and Mathematics, said.

"You know that exports form a most important activity for the health of the country's economy," Larijani said, adding that "if Turkey does not export it can't survive and the same is true for Malaysia."

Larijani scoffed at the idea of making any country a superpower through sophisticated weapons and said "the popular base, or the people's support to the government is the best guarantee for overall developments.

"I have no doubt that for the political power of a country a healthy economy and force are not the only ingredients," he said.

"What I'm trying to say is that people's presence at the political scene and the obedience to the leader are the most essential ingredients for the power of the country," Larijani said.

When his attention was drawn towards the high prices of essential goods and the uneasy situation prevailing among the common people in Iran Larijani admitted that "surgery is being conducted on the ailing economy and we should expect that some blood has to be shed."

Larijani, however, said, "We have to show patience and responsible officials are paying due attention towards the basic problems of the common people."

Larijani has been elected to the Majles for the first time and said, "I do not think that there would be any basic change in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic following the establishment of the Fourth Term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly."

"Parliaments play a vital role in domestic and foreign policies of every country," he said.

"What we should expect from the Fourth Term of the Majles to have better diplomatic activities."

Larijani denied that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in isolation. He said, "No, I do not have such an impression." [passage omitted]

Larijani said that "in consideration of the state of the economy of our country today, two ways are open to us.

"One which has been used for a long time is to use the oil wealth derived from sales abroad to import goods needed by people and distribute it to consumers at subsidized rates," he said.

"This, first way, is one of the most pernicious for our effort to reach economic independence," he said.

Talking of the second way, he explained this as "stepping into the export market and investing the income gained from oil sales abroad in the industrial field which should be export-oriented." "To do this we should have a national strategy," he added.

"I personally believe that here exactly is the weak point of our 5-year development program. We don't really know in which types of industry we should invest in order to secure a good export market. And besides we seem hardly aware of what our business partners abroad really require of us," Larijani said.

Oil Ministry Launches New Production Plan

LD0308165192 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—The Oil Ministry has launched four major plans code-named Val-Fajr to increase production and make better use of petroleum and its derivatives in oil rich regions in southern Iran, an Oil Ministry official told IRNA Monday.

"Upon a proposal of the Oil Ministry, a plan was initiated in 1990 to boost Iran's oil output to four million BPD [barrels per day]. This is while the initial targets were three million BPD by 1994 and 3.6 million BPD by 1999," Mohammad Aqa'i, manager of southern regions department at the ministry said.

The official said that with the approval of the necessary budgets by the Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly), the Oil Ministry began to implement the four plans.

The first plan, he said, was to increase drilling operations including the drilling of new wells and repair and maintenance of the existing ones.

As a result, he added, the number of drilling rigs rose from eight in 1990, the start of the first 5-year development plan, to 42 in 1992 and is expected to increase to 60 by next March.

He said the second plan was to raise production ceiling by establishing new exploitation facilities. "Some 870 projects are being implemented to increase the number of oil fields to 47 as predicted by the first development plan."

Aqa'i cited gas injection into oil wells as the third project now being implemented by the Oil Ministry. Some 6.3 billion cubic feet of gas is to go into those oil rich regions that need gas injection by the end of the plan, he said.

According to the official, the fourth plan is processing of natural gas to produce liquified gas and to implement other gas projects.

By 1995, some 120,000 barrels of liquified gas are to be delivered to the petrochemical complex at the Imam Khomeyni port city in southern Iran.

Thanks to the Val-Fajr project, Iran's oil production capacity has risen to 3.4 million BPD from 2.4 million after the end of the imposed war, he said.

Asked as to why Iran found it difficult to produce as much oil as it used to do before, i.e. 4.5 to 5.5 million BPD, he replied: "We used to get such an amount of crude oil from six oil fields with 300 oil wells. This was while the fields were still young with huge reserves and therefore extracting crude from them was much easier then than now.

"Moreover, pipeline networks had been designed for those six oil fields while there are now 47 fields with 600 wells. Exploring new oil zones has become more difficult than before and needs deep wells to be drilled and vast network of pipelines to be set up," Aqa'i concluded.

Stock Shares Offered to Iranians Living Abroad

LD0208172492 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Governor of Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli has said that Iranians living abroad can buy shares at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

In an interview which appeared in the TEHRAN TIMES today, 'Adeli was also quoted as saying that even foreigners also buy shares at the TSE in line with the existing law in this connection.

"True, we have not yet internationalized the TSE as yet but it could be done in due course and in due time," he, however added.

Giving details of the achievements of the TSE, 'Adeli compared the figures of stocks that changed hands in the calendar year 1368 (1989-90) from 3.9 million shares worth rials 11,000 million to 13.3 million shares worth rials 65,000 million in the following year, and a record 62 million shares worth 478,000 million rials last year.

"The figures speak for themselves indicating that TSE is getting popular in Iranian society", 'Adeli told TEHRAN TIMES.

He said that in accord with the first five-year development plan launched in 1990 provision has been made to utilize foreign capitals on a long-term basis up to dollars 17,500 million.

He added: "We have already contracted for dollars 13,000 million, the rest of which is under negotiation. We have not had any problem in raising such an amount of foreign sources. However, so far we have effectively utilized only around dollars 5,000 million, the first installment of which will be five years from now."

According to 'Adeli Iran has remained "very active" in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. He said he had been chairman of G-24, and that Iran's active management for preserving the interests of the developing countries was well appreciated by them.

As an example, he singled out the question of Switzerland joining IMF. "We asked their officials to guarantee that their joining would not take place at the expense of one seat in the board that belongs to the developing countries. I took a written guarantee from Swiss minister of finance to that end. This very guarantee today helped the developing countries save one of their seats that was threatened by Switzerland's desire to have one single independent seat", 'Adeli concluded.

German Firm To Build Power Plant on Qeshm Island

LD0208174192 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Siemens of Germany has undertaken to build a power plant complex with a final capacity of 1,400 megawatts in the free trade zone area of Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

A letter of understanding to that effect was signed between head of the the Qeshm Free Trade Authority, 'Ali Shams Ardakani and the Managing Director of Siemens Dr Von Pirer.

The power plants to utilize gas will be erected in four phases. Construction operations for the power plants are to start this autumn. By the autumn of 1994 two units of the power plant will be ready for operation.

It is expected that each megawatt of the power plants will eventually cost about dlrs 300.

Meanwhile the thermal output of the power plant is also to be used for desalinating the Persian Gulf water for drinking purposes.

According to the letter of agreement Siemens and the free trade zone of Qeshm will also jointly manufacture a series of electric household itmes for marketing in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Qeshm Agreement Criticized

LD0308100792 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Two morning dailies Monday strongly criticized the signing of a letter of understanding between heads of the 'Qeshm Free Authority' [QFA] and Siemens of Germany.

Addressing the Supreme Economic Council, the government and other decision-making centers, the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote:

"A minister or a managing director of an organization, with the aim to carry out his programs, may act with high responsibility but disregard other aspects of the issue despite goodwill. Under such circumstances, the higher authorities should intervene to stop infliction of any harm on the whole system."

A letter of understanding on erection of a power plant complex with a final capacity of 1,400 megawatts in Qeshm free trade zone was concluded, at the presence of Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujhi, by the QFA President 'Ali Shams Ardakani and Managing Director of Siemens Von Pierer [name as received] Sunday.

Addressing the Iranian side of the contract, whom it accused of disregarding the failure of the Siemens Company in fulfilling its commitments to finish the Bushehr power plant, the paper added:

"Have the (other) ministries, engaged these days in negotiations and signing contracts with Siemens, thought of the consequences of their acts? Should Siemens disregard execution of contracts worth 12,000 million German marks, concluded with themselves (the ministries), would they still have warmly received the Siemens managing director and chatted with him?"

Another daily 'ABRAR' said in an inside page commentary:

"These contracts are concluded at a time that the popular protest against Siemens has not stopped yet. This indicates inattention of certain authorities towards the public

opinion. It is true that Qeshm has been declared as a free trade zone but the fact is that this or any other zone are not ruled by laws and regulations other than those of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The paper called on the authorities to respect the public opinion and the people's demand and said:

"The act of the authorities of the Qeshm free trade zone should in fact be considered as a kind of mocking the people who have always withstood against the enemies of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic and have disclosed deviate policies and enmities."

Meanwhile, the Siemens managing director told IRNA here Sunday that completion of the Bushehr power plant depended upon permits from the German Government.

He termed the issue of Bushehr plant as a "regretful story which has embarrassed not only Iranians but also the Siemens employees."

Pierer added that he is personally following up the case. He denied that Siemens had failed to carry out its commitments. The question on Bushehr plant is out of the power, activity and responsibility of the Siemens Company, he reiterated.

"Non-completion of the Bushehr project should not create any obstacle on the way to further bilateral cooperation," he said adding that Tehran-Bonn relations were 'very favorable' even during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

He also said that he was present at the time of the conclusion of the contract but that higher authorities had signed the agreement.

Pakistan

Indian Charge of Military Activity Denied

BK0408012492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has strongly rejected the Indian defense minister's statement accusing Pakistan of having stepped up its military activities along the Line of Control. Expressing surprise over the statement published in the Indian press, the spokesman said the actual situation is Indian troops have intensified their activities along the line of control since last week. He said the director general of Pakistan's military operations has established contact with his Indian counterpart to halt Indian activities.

India Criticized for Israeli-Trained Commandos

BK0308062592 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Aug 92 p 6

[Editorial: "RAW-Mosad collusion"]

[Text] For quite some time, the Indian government has been seeking the Zionist state's help in training its secret agents for different counter-insurgency operations. Now fresh reports coming out of foreign sources indicate that the Indian Prime Minister, Narsimha Rao has given his approval for a new and more intensive programme of training for the country's notorious intelligence agency, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] members by the Mosad experts. The Israeli-trained Indian agents will also be receiving sophisticated weapons especially designed for suppressing popular movements for freedom. As is evident, the brunt of this new Indian offensive against its insurgents is to be borne by the freedom fighters in Kashmir. In fact, most of the 100 agents already trained by Mosad are reported to have been deployed in Occupied Kashmir. This RAW-Mosad collusion should be a matter of concern not only to those who believe in the justness of the Kashmir cause as recognised by the UN resolutions, but also the country's Arab friends, some of whom refuse to read any negative messages in its policies. India's Arab well-wishers may not care about the known reports of the country's secret liaison with the Zionist state established and maintained for a subject of mutual concern, i.e., Pakistan's alleged nuclear programme, under which the two have been actually exchanging information, but they might want to take a fresh look at their relations with India in the perspective of the current increased volume of Indo-Israeli contacts in the area of security. The Indian quest for Israeli training and technology to grapple with its internal security problems may ultimately lead the country into taking positions on important international forums, that are harmful to the Arab interest.

For the Indian government itself, it may not be such a good idea to seek foreign help in putting its house in order. If it wants domestic peace, it has to find domestic formulas for the purpose. It needs to learn a few lessons from recent history which is replete with examples wherein governments have failed to suppress peoples' aspirations for freedom and independence through the use of force, whatever the tactics employed.

Sharif Brushes Aside Opposition Threat

BK0308145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today made an impassioned appeal to all the opposition parties to eschew negative politics and start a new era in national politics. Making a statement in the National Assembly this morning, he invited the Opposition to join hands to work together for eradicating sectarianism from the body politic of the country. He called for promoting an atmosphere of conciliation and mutual understanding in the supreme national interest. He called upon the Opposition to tackle the national issues in a constructive manner. He said that the negative politics should not start at least from the level of the parliament. He said the politics of agitation has failed and the people are fed up with it. It is time that we should learn a lesson from the past and promote healthy and positive politics in the country. The government is determined to eliminate terrorism, sectarianism, and other prejudices as they are harmful for the country.

The prime minister declared that the present National Assembly would not complete its tenure till 1995. The National Assembly, he said, would not be dissolved before its stipulated period. Referring to the threat of resignations by the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], the prime

minister said it is extremely regrettable that innocent members are being made the scapegoat in this regard. The prime minister said most of them are not willing to tender resignations and they have conveyed the feelings through the press. These members, he said, are promoting the cause of democracy which is a commendable step. The government would not stop those who want to tender resignation. There is a proper procedure laid down in the Constitution. If a member resigns, the Government will hold elections on the vacant seat.

The prime minister said the point in tendering resignation by MQM MNA's [Muhajir Qaumi Movement members of National Assembly] could be understandable, but such a move by PDA is not comprehensible. In fact, the PDA should have expressed their joy over stamping out of heinous crime such dacoities [banditry] and robberies in the Sindh province. The operation in Sindh has been launched in the best national interest.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif pointed out that the Government did not care even to lose the support of 15 MQM members and had done what was in the larger interest of the country. The highways of Sindh are now quite safe and the people feel secure.

PDA Fails To Prove Majority in Sindh Assembly

BK0308154192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The opposition People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] members could not prove their majority in the Sindh assembly today during a voting on a motion ordered by Assembly Deputy Speaker Ata Mohammad Mari. The motion was moved by Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, the leader of the house, which called for extending the time of the assembly's session. During the division 47 votes were cast in favor of the motion from the ruling party side. When the deputy speaker said that anyone opposing the motion should stand up, the opposition members did not do so. At that time about 31 PDA members were present in the house.

Earlier, making a statement in the house, the Sindh chief minister said that law would be enforced at all cost and no one would be allowed to violate it. He made the statement on an adjournment motion which Nissar Khoro of PDA wanted to move on the alleged arrests of the People's Party workers in the province. Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah informed the house that almost all People's Party workers taken into custody have now been released.

Paper Lauds PDA 'Restraint' Over Sindh

BK0108110792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Aug 92 p 6

[Editorial: "PDA Delivers a Message"]

[Text] The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] quite wisely called off its day of protest in Sindh. That restraint on the part of Ms Benazir Bhutto was timely and eminently sensible. But the way people came out to participate in protest demonstrations in the rest of the country has been impressive by any standards. And there is a message for the gentlemen in seats of power. The signals from all corners of the country are by no means shining green. They certainly are amber if not blazing red. If Premier Nawaz Sharif's popularity rating two years ago was, let's say, 75 per cent then, it is nowhere near that figure now. The figure of 75 per cent was calculated on the basis of his once 2/3rd majority in the National Assembly. It has dwindled to a very significant extent. Mr Nawaz Sharif's own Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz is lamenting (or proclaiming?) loss of strength in the National Assembly. He said so the other day addressing the business community, bemoaning the government's inability to provide statutory protection to economic reforms. It is not very clear—it rarely is—what he really wished to convey and which economic reforms he was referring to in particular. However, the fact of the situation is that the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government is no longer in as robust a shape as it perhaps was when it entered into office. The PDA demonstrations all over the country provide stinging testimony to this change in the political climate. And what is happening in Sindh puts a stamp of confirmation.

The PDA show of Thursday brings the issue of Section 144 CrPC [Criminal Procedure Code] once again under discussion. What on earth is this provision of the Criminal Procedure Code meant for? To arm the government of the day to stifle the opposition? Certainly not. A peaceful political demonstration by the public is not criminal activity by any standards of thought or political etiquette. The citizen's right to free political expression (whatever its form within the circumference of legality) is abolutely inviolable. It is violated blatantly by the government resorting to Section 144 CrPC. Then, the citizen has an absolutely indisputable right of peaceful and lawful assembly. Section 144 CrPC violates this fundamental right of the law-abiding citizen. This is unabashed negation of the basics of democratic and decent political life. Why is the government so afraid of public demonstrations? Why does it not feel strong enough to face these perfectly legitimate activities of the opposition parties? These are not idle questions. A government confident of itself ought to be able to face public show of dissent without getting so nervous.

The framers of the law, in which Section 144 CrPC finds a place, were quite sensible to its application and possibilities of abuse of powers that this section confers on the executive branch of the government. They had duly explained that this Section and other provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code which tended to be contrary to the spirit of free democracy, were meant to be medicines and not daily food. Section 144 CrPC was intended to be a life-saving drug, not the daily bread of the administration. What kind of danger, to whose life, was a peaceful demonstration by the opposition going to pose?

A public demonstration is part of the political process. To use Section 144 CrPC to suppress is the most arbitrary abuse of law. A timid administration falls back upon it every time there is a slight ripple in the air. We have known this draconian provision of the Criminal Procedure Code being used by the magistracy in the feudal-dominated countryside to prevent the tiller of the soil from reaping his crop. So sweeping are the powers available under Section 144 CrPC, and so crudely these powers have often been used, that it is now a monument to the worst anti-democratic tendencies which keep citizen's basic freedoms in perpetual jeopardy. Either this Section should be brought into conformity with fundamental rights or scrapped altogether. It is a menace in the hands of an administration so mighty afraid of the people it is supposed to serve.